

Hammersmith CHRONICLE

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It's Christmas! Supplement inside

MORE than 90 stallholders have already signed up to North End Road's Christmas market next month. Traders will celebrate with festive cheer once again after thousands of visitors revelled in the spirit of the season last year. Handmade gifts, food and drink and traditional street entertainment will all be on show over the course of the day. Town Hall bosses have stepped in to close roads and ensure the market will be free from traffic during the event, which takes place on Saturday December 3.



Health campaigners threaten legal move

Public meeting called to rally support for action against cuts and closures

BY JACK DIXON
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TOWN Hall chiefs have threatened to pursue legal action in a bid to protect local health services from cutbacks and closures.

Campaigners fear new plans will cut more than £1 billion from the local NHS budget and lead to the closure of acute hospital services.

But health bosses have rebuffed the claims and insist that Charing Cross "is not closing".

A public meeting will take place at Hammersmith Town Hall next week in an effort to rally support behind the council's campaign.

And in a stark warning to NHS bosses ahead of the meeting, the leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council Stephen Cowan said: "If they don't listen, we will go to court".

Senior clinicians published the sustainability and transformation plan for north west London last week.

It is one of 44 documents drawn

up by doctors across the country in a bid to restructure cash-strapped health services.

Officials say the STP does not include any plans to reduce the capacity at Charing Cross Hospital over the next five years.

But the council has refused to support the STP and is now poised to take legal action if it is given the green light.

Cllr Cowan said: "For the last two years this council has been fighting alongside residents to save Charing Cross Hospital from proposals to demolish it and replace it with an urgent care clinic that would be just 13 per cent the size of the original hospital."

"We commissioned a public inquiry led by Michael Mansfield QC that has provided a strong evidence base for why the proposals are wrong, and we have started official proceedings to stop NHS bosses closing our hospital."

"If they don't listen, we will go to court."

In a rallying call ahead of the

public meeting, he added: "Now more than ever, we need all our residents to demonstrate the strength of local support to save our hospital."

Earlier this year a national newspaper investigation revealed that proposals to reduce the number of hospitals in the north west London area from nine to five were advocated in a draft of the STP.

The latest version of the document states there will be "no substantive changes to A&E in Hammersmith and Fulham" until any reduction in capacity has been "adequately replaced by out-of-hospital provision".

Last week the Imperial College NHS Trust, which runs Charing Cross, issued a strongly-worded statement, criticising the council's poster and leaflet campaign.

A spokesman said: "We want to reassure our staff, patients, local residents and partners that Charing Cross is not closing and that there will be no reduction in the hospital's A&E and wider services

during the lifetime of the STP, which runs until April 2021."

Last week an investigation by the health charity The King's Fund found that key elements of the national STP design process had been "top-down" with little meaningful input from patients and members of the public.

Local campaign group Save Our Hospitals says the plan for north west London was drawn up without proper public consultation – a claim strongly denied by clinicians.

Campaign chairwoman Merrill Hamer said: "The Government says community health services will cope but that's ridiculous."

"We know local GP services are stretched to breaking point, community nursing is seriously understaffed and social services funding has been slashed despite our growing and ageing population."

The public meeting takes place at Hammersmith Town Hall on Tuesday November 29 at 7.30pm.



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Sheena Easton's back on the 9-5 - see page 27

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BY JACK DIXON
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I don't know much about art but I know what I like," the old saying goes. But while beauty may be in the eye of the beholder, one group of amateur artists is proving that teamwork can create the perfect picture.

Just Four are set to open their first ever London exhibition next week, only a few years after getting together to furnish their creative talents.

What began as a simple study group has flourished into a collective of part-time painters, each pushing the others on to bigger and better things.

Jenny Hill-Norton formed the group with friends Jo Ellis and Sophie Bartlett – all three had been students of Anthea Stilwell, a former art teacher at Harrow School.

They began working together as a trio, offering hints and suggestions to improve each other's art. But the project truly took off when Anthea herself joined the team.

In the last year, Just Four have exhibited at numerous art fairs and galleries across the country – and they are gearing up for their biggest challenge yet, a residency at the Tabernacle in Notting Hill.

"I was absolutely bowled over by the people there and the feeling of community, that's very rare," says Jenny.

"We are all very excited to be part of such a vibrant place. All the things that go on there – whether it's yoga, dance, theatre or music – it's all stuff we relate to very much."

The group has spent several days hidden away inside a house in West Wittering, Sussex, adding the finishing touches to their exhibition.

It will put their unusual creative process in the spotlight, proving that the inspiration of others can help to generate the most engaging work.

"The four of us find that we produce our most interesting and inspirational pieces while work-



Just Four, including (left to right) Anthea Stilwell, Jo Ellis, Sophie Bartlett (sitting) and Jenny Hill-Norton

ing together," adds Jenny, a former glass engraver and garden designer, who now deals mainly in water-colours and oil paintings.

They have all learned the tricks of the trade from Anthea, who studied at the Ruskin School of Drawing in Oxford before teaching at Harrow.

"My subject matter is wide-ranging," she says. "Sometimes becoming abstract, always built on drawing and often memory."

"I just enjoy the conversation and the struggle with the medium I've chosen. I never have an end in mind, I just stop when the work feels right."

Despite the teacher-student dynamic, Anthea says she has learnt a huge amount from her relatively short time in Just Four.

"It's a two-way thing, I pick up a lot of what I know from what they do," she adds.

From time to time the working

sessions can become intense, says Jenny, and the free-form style often leads to highs and lows in the studio.

"Most teachers would give a demo and say 'paint like this'. But Anthea doesn't do that. It's very unusual," she explains.

"She pulls out of each person in the group what they have inside them. She's always looking for the individuality, not the similarity. It's really tough – sometimes it ends in tears and tearing hair."

Despite the ups and downs, the group has facilitated some of the four members' best work, often inspiring others to pick up a brush of their own.

"You get that wonderful silence of people working together when the concentration is intense but then, between that, we're discussing what we're doing," Jenny adds.

"Because we're looking with the same sort of eye, we can help each other with our paintings. Sometimes it's difficult to see where your own painting is going whereas somebody outside of it can give you a little nudge in the direction that sorts a problem."

"It's a very fruitful time of bouncing ideas off each other and thinking what we're going to do next."

"We just never stop talking about art – and that's the sort of thing our husbands get sick of at home."

Just Four Plus One, featuring artwork by Jenny Hill-Norton, Anthea Stilwell, Jo Ellis, Sophie Bartlett and Craig Narrmore, is on display at the Tabernacle in Notting Hill between Tuesday, November 29 and Sunday, December 4.



The Lord Mayor of Westminster and children from the Oslo International School get to grips with sawing down the tree

Call for a change in policing policy over Soho drugs problem

FROM PAGE 1

cent months. I'm aware of more aggressive selling on the streets and of blatant drug use in areas such as St Anne's Gardens.

"This is the first time in the three-and-a-half years I have been at St Anne's that I have found discarded syringes in the flower beds and seen people sheltering in the bushes while injecting."

Cllr Paul Church criticised the Met at the meeting over policing policy which has left Soho helpless against the drug-taking.

Cllr Church said the Impact Zone policing - a special team of officers brought in to watch over Leicester Square, Covent Garden and Piccadilly, but not Soho - was partly to blame for the increase in drug crime.

"We the taxpayers are paying for police to stand around Leicester Square drinking coffee while people are shooting up in our doorways in Soho, and that, in my book, is entirely wrong," he said.

"Soho needs policing, and the fact that we are policing one area over another is a disgrace, and it is a disgrace right to the top of the Met."

Cllr Church has now launched a petition to Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor of London for Policing & Crime, to "Keep Soho Safe!"

The petition demands: "We urge the Metropolitan Police to take action against the rise in drug-related crime in Soho by allocating Soho more police officers for more proactive and faster reactive policing in our area.

"We want the Metropolitan Police to change their current policing model for The West End, as we believe that the current model, whereby the Leicester Square 'Impact Zone' is allocated 77 police officers, compared to Soho being allocated just 10 for our entire area, is unfair and has resulted in a displacement of drug-related crime into Soho.

"This is important because Soho is special. For many of us, it is our home and our community village. For others, it is a place where their artistic and creative talents can flourish. For London, it is a thriving area with the UK's best entertainment, restaurants and theatres. For the world, it is a cultural beacon, where different age groups, cultures and communities live side by side and enjoy life together."

In the wake of complaints of the lack of enough police, Superintendent Lis Chapelle assured residents: "There will be an immediate review of the Impact Zone and the resourcing that we have there, with a view to releasing a proportion, with immediate effect, of those individuals to come and police your area."

But Labour councillors are demanding a much harder response and are telling police and the Council to take off the kid gloves.

In response to the surge in drug crime in Soho, the West End Labour Action Team has released a five-point plan to tackle the issue at root.

"The plan eschews making small, timid changes - the approach of the authorities to date - and calls for a bold and tough approach to do away with what a Soho rector has called a 'sudden spike' in drug crime in the area," said a spokesman.

The five-point plan argues that:



Currently only 10 police officers are allocated to Soho while the Leicester Square Impact Zone is allocated 77 officers

- A special 'Soho Drugs Task Force' should be established, led by a Westminster Council Cabinet member that takes responsibility for coordinating all Council departments and liaising with the police, Camden local authorities and the community.
- A cross-borough strategy must be set up involving police authorities and the borough councils involving Westminster and Camden boroughs. The strategy must recognise that users and dealers move between borough boundaries as they wish and that the work of the authorities must respond to that challenge.
- The concerns of local residents, workers and businesses need to be at the heart of plans to tackle anti-social behaviour. This means that the local community need to be consulted so that the aspirations for Soho are at the heart of plans to tackle drug crime.
- Technology and CCTV must be used. This means reversing plans to cut CCTV and employing bright lighting in hot-spots of drug use, amongst others.
- A distinction must be made between dealers and users. Dealers knowingly exploit and prey on vulnerable individuals, and must be dealt with toughness and swiftly. On the other hand, therapy and support needs to be readily accessible to users so they can beat their habits and rebuild their lives.

The West End team are calling for feedback on their plans, and want as many residents, workers and business owners to come forward with their views.

Pancho Lewis, of the West End Labour team, said: "The recent Safer Soho community meeting confirmed what we've repeatedly heard from residents. A tough and bold approach is needed to tackle what is a daily public threat to many residents and workers."

Patrick Lilley, also of the Labour team, said: "We've heard stories of shock and fear about the recent surge in drug use and dealing in Soho. This can't continue. We need more police on the streets of Soho. Residents, workers and businesses deserve to feel safe. So let's make it happen."

The West End Labour Action Team is seeking comments and feedback on the plan. Responses should be e-mailed to pancho.lewis@gmail.com or patrick.lilley@me.com

Mayor fells the capital's Christmas tree

THE Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Steve Summers, has accepted the gift of a tree from the people of Norway at a ceremony in Oslo.

The tree, which will be placed and lit up in Trafalgar Square, is a traditional gift from the people of Norway as token of gratitude and commemoration of Britain's support during the Second World War when the Norwegian government and royal family lived in exile in London during Norway's occupation.

The Mayor of Oslo Ms Marianne Borgen invited Cllr Summers and British Embassy staff to join her for a ceremony to cut the 70th anniversary gift tree.

They were accompanied by children from the Oslo International School, the international class at Manglerud school and Norwegian primary school Klemetsrud to sing Christmas carols and enjoy hot drinks and traditional Norwegian sweet buns as they witnessed the start of the journey of this year's tree.

Cllr Summers and some of the children helped to cut the tree.

The Mayor of Oslo will pay a reciprocal visit to

London for the hand over ceremony on December 1 which will include a performance from the Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields, the Norwegian Boys Choir and music from the Regent Hall Band of the Salvation Army. Primary School children will be in attendance to read poetry based on the theme of 'Joy of nature in the City'.

The tree is currently being transported across the North Sea on a ferry to UK Customs and Immigration and then carried by lorry to Trafalgar Square.



The chosen tree - the Mayors of Oslo and Westminster prepare for the forest tree cutting ceremony

Bid to protect small businesses in Westminster

BY GEOFF BAKER
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WESTMINSTER Council has introduced new 'made to measure' protection zones to save small specialist traders like Savile Row tailors from the threat of giant global brands.

Some of Westminster's most iconic areas have been protected thanks to a new council policy.

Westminster's 'Special Policy Areas' came into effect last week, ensuring that five historically and culturally significant parts of London - Savile Row, Mayfair, Harley Street, St James' and Portland Place - remain home to the world leading industries that put them on the map.

Savile Row, the global home of bespoke tailoring, is set to benefit as the new measures will allow Westminster City Council to reject planning proposals which threaten the character of this and other unique areas.

"The move comes as the council seeks to protect specialist traders and prevent an invasion of global brands which threaten to change the make-up of some of the capital's most recognisable streets," said a council spokesman.

"A number of antiques dealers have disappeared from Mayfair and St James' in recent years with commercial pressure forcing traders to close their doors. The policy will help ensure that these areas retain their historic identity."

Cllr Robert Davis, Westminster City Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment, said: "Like a good suit, planning policy should be made to measure."

"The 17.5 million people who visit London each year come to experience our capital's distinctive character. It's unthinkable that world renowned destinations such as Savile Row, which is synonymous with quality tailoring, could become indistinguishable from any other high street around the world."

"Our historic tailors and art traders are coming under intense pressure from other disparate uses eager to rent in the area. We are using our powers to protect some of the capital's most valuable assets and create environments where specialist traders can thrive."

"Special Policy Areas will ensure we retain

and nurture the world leading expertise that made these areas famous in the first place."

Mark Henderson, Chairman of Gieves and Hawkes said: "I'm pleased that Westminster City Council have taken action to protect specialist traders on Savile Row."

"As one of the area's oldest tailors, we're proud of our road's unique status, which attracts the best talent and brings us clients from across the world."

"It's a reputation that has been built through 100s of years of history and combined experience which makes our trade truly irreplaceable."

"It would be a disaster if all that heritage were lost and the tailors lining our road today were replaced by retailers found on every high-street in the country. Special Policy Area status will help ensure we remain home to the world's finest bespoke tailors."

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US Embassy building to become a luxury hotel

THE US Embassy in Grosvenor Square is to be converted into a £1 billion hotel.

Westminster City Council has granted planning permission for developers Qatari Diar to transform the site, which has been home to US ambassadors to the UK since 1960, into a 137-bedroom hotel, spa and ballroom for 900 guests.

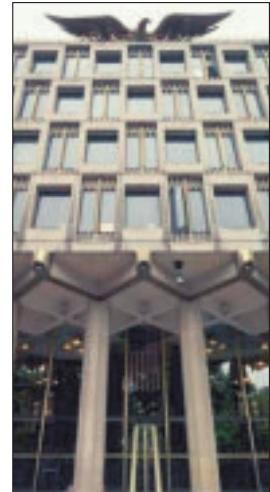
Permission for the proposal has been granted subject to the building retaining its most iconic elements, including the large gilded eagle on the roof.

Approval is also dependent on the developers funding the removal of existing security fences, huts and bollards and the reopening of the surrounding roads as soon as possible. Access to the areas has been restricted in recent years as part of heightened security measures.

Cllr Robert Davis, Westminster City Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment, said: "This marks the start of a new era in Grosvenor Square's rich history. Everyone recognises the American embassy building and this will be an iconic hotel."

"I am pleased to rubberstamp these plans which open up the area to billions of pounds of investment and greatly improve access to the square and surrounding roads."

A topping out ceremony for



the building of the new US embassy in Nine Elms, Wandsworth, took place in December last year.

• WESTMINSTER residents are to be asked to vote on which is the best new building in the borough.

The council is introducing a new architecture award which will be given to the favourite building which gets the most votes from locals.

Westminster City Council is launching a new 'People's Choice' award as part of a broader campaign to engage

the public in a debate about what makes a great building and to promote design excellence.

The council, which is the planning authority with responsibility for the area holding some of the world's most famous landmarks, will run the award from 2017 with aim of recognising a cutting edge, high quality design from the past five years.

Westminster residents will be asked to pick their favourites from a shortlist, narrowed down by a panel of local councillors and outside experts.

The award is being pioneered by Cllr Robert Davis, Westminster City Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Built Environment.

Cllr Davis, who has had a life-long passion for good design, said: "Brilliant architectural design sets the tone for an area. Outstanding design should be recognised and the best people to ask are those who live and work amongst these eye-catching buildings.

"We expect a high standard from developers, who we trust with the heritage of our great City of Westminster.

"My abiding principle at Westminster City Council has always been to deliver public spaces that inspire and create a sense of destination. Westminster is special, so our buildings should be special too."

Increased penalties for Westminster fly-tippers

PEOPLE who fly-tip in Westminster now face an increase in fines of up to £400 for breaking the law and dropping their waste or litter.

Those who illegally dump will be penalised through new powers designed to tackle the issue. Westminster council staff will be able to issue fixed penalty notices between £150 and £400 for "small-scale" offences.

"The move is good news for residents and businesses who comply with the law, as in 2015/16 Westminster City Council removed 15,628 fly-tips ranging in size from a single black bag to 'van load' sizes," said a council spokesman.

Cllr Nickie Aiken, Cabinet Member for Public Protection said: "We have one of the best cleaning services in the country and we hope that these new fines send a strong message to the minority who think it is acceptable to fly tip and ignore our bins and refuse collections that this behaviour will not be tolerated.

"Our residents regularly complain about others who choose to illegally dump their rubbish. The vast majority of our residents and businesses are determined to keep their streets and neighbourhoods clean and we are working with them to create a cleaner greener city for all."

The spokesman added: "Littering costs the taxpayer between £717 million and £850 million a year to tidy up. More than 900,000 incidents of rubbish dumped illegally are recorded each year by Defra, with everything from old mattresses and fridges to tyres and masonry being left in public places.

"Westminster City Council is working with communities to improve our neighbourhoods and keep our city clean and tidy. We have introduced various ways old items can be safely and easily disposed of, ranging from our 'Restart' events for electronics to mobile recycling centres and big black bins that are visibly placed in neighbourhoods.

"The council also offers bulk waste collection services for residents, who can also take their household items to the waste recycling centre at Smuggler's Way."

The increase in fines will mean: For household waste, a £200 fine upon a first offence, rising to £400 for a second offence, followed by prosecution. For trade or business waste, a £400 fine followed by prosecution for subsequent offences. Warnings, valid for a year, will be issued for those who do not place household waste in appropriate receptacles and at specified times.

During a recent three-day operation to clamp down on fly tipping, the council issued 71 Fixed Penalty Notices between 13 - 16 October, with offenders having to pay £80 for illegally dumping their rubbish.

City inspectors will continue to work with discretion to ensure there is awareness of disposal and so that residents are better informed about the services the council offers.

Writing for you every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie pipes up!



Palace's renovation must be seen as boost to construction sector

EYEBROWS have been raised by the amount of money it will set taxpayers back to renovate Buckingham Palace.

However, the ten-year, £369 million project to repair the palace shouldn't be seen as a cost to the taxpayer but a cash injection for the UK's construction sector.

In the week of the Autumn Statement, which is expected to be heavily laden with a commitment to invest in infrastructure, the Queen is doing what any good monarch should do and lead from the front by supporting a project that will deliver a boost to British companies with the skills and experience to undertake such a significant contract.

Whether it's a railway system, a motorway or one of the country's most recognised buildings, it is essential that the UK invests in its fabric to ensure we remain an economically competitive and financially attractive country.

As a plumber, who has stepped across the threshold of one of the world's most recognised royal residences when I was presented with my OBE, I can see what a big job it will be to secure the future of this iconic building.

The palace pretty much needs a complete overhaul of its plumbing and electrics, some of which haven't been touched in 60 years.

I don't think any respectable contractor with the expertise and experience (including myself, of course), would turn down the chance to work on a renovation project at Buckingham Palace.

The challenge is, though, to not just let the large multinational contractors get their hands on the job but to ensure that skilled SME companies have the opportunity to be part of the project.

Earlier this year the Na-

tional Audit Office reported that government efforts to support SMEs through direct procurement need to be more focused. Its report did say that the role of SMEs in government procurement is growing, with 27 per cent - £12.1 billion - of spending in 2014-15 going the way of small and medium firms.

However, the report also stated that SMEs still face barriers that prevent them from bidding for public-sector contracts. This will be helped, I hope, by Enterprise Nation founder Emma Jones MBE, who was appointed in the summer as the government's small business Crown Representative tasked with breaking down barriers for SMEs to do business with the public sector.

In particular, we have to cut the amount of red tape that businesses have to go through to get the chance to be part of significant infrastructure projects, be it a royal palace or whatever the Chancellor plans to announce at the dispatch box this week.

Of course, projects of this magnitude are given to a large main contractor with the experience of managing major infrastructure works. However, perhaps there should be a requirement placed in the main contractor's agreement with the government that a proportion of the work should be given to SMEs.

That would make it easier for SMEs to bid for elements of the project and would definitely ensure that the government's infrastructure spending is better shared across the UK economy.

Buckingham Palace is a cherished national asset, as are the talents and skills of Britain's SME businesses, which, if given the opportunity, can play a vital role in the development of the country's infrastructure.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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No all out Tube strike but drivers working to rule

UNION bosses have backed down over strike action on the Tube – but drivers will refuse to work overtime and rest days.

Thousands of station staff supported industrial action in relation to two separate disputes following a ballot last week.

Around 85 per cent of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers Union members voted in favour of walk-outs over staffing levels and safety.

But despite the overwhelming support of members, the union has announced it is not planning to organise strikes on the Tube.

Instead it has instructed its members not to work overtime or rest days from this week.

While the threat of strike action appears to have been averted, questions remain over services in the run-up to Christmas.

Mick Cash, the RMT union's general secretary, said: "RMT will not stand by while safety is compromised on the London Un-



derground off the back of cashed cuts to staffing levels that the union has warned would have a serious, lasting and corrosive impact for staff and passengers alike. That is why our members are taking this action."

The union said on Tuesday

(November 15) that 85 per cent of its members had voted for strike action in a row over Tube station staffing levels and safety.

A similar number of Piccadilly Line drivers supported walk-outs in relation to a separate dispute over policy and safety procedures.

More than 3,000 station staff members were balloted following complaints about the "axing" of front-line workers and the closure of ticket offices.

The poll also followed a major terror alert at North Greenwich station that the union said had left safety "on a knife edge".

Mr Cash added: "RMT members on the London Underground stations see day-in-day-out the toxic impact of the job cuts programme and they are reporting back that it is horrific.

"With the constant overcrowding on stations and platforms, it is only a matter of time before there is a major tragedy if we don't act decisively.

"Our dispute is about taking action to haul back the cuts machine and put safety back at the top of the agenda."

London Underground said talks were planned to discuss the concerns of union members.

'Draconian' measures to control prisoners in London jails

LAGS at some of Britain's toughest prisons got up to so much wrongdoing last year they earned themselves a whopping 22,000 more days of imprisonment.

More than 62 years of extra prison hours were imposed on London prisoners found to have broken the rules last year, a report revealed.

22,000 days of additional imprisonment were handed out to rule-breaking inmates across London's seven prisons in 2015, new data shows.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) statistics show that, across England and Wales, the number of additional days' imprisonment imposed has increased by 30 per cent in a year.

Prisons across England and Wales, under growing pressure due to overcrowding and a lack of staff, are increasingly resorting to draconian punishments in a desperate attempt to keep control.

The findings by the Howard League for Penal Reform have been published in a report - *A Million Days: The world of prison discipline* - which states that more than one million additional days - equal to almost 3,000 years - have been imposed on prisoners since 2010.

The report looks at how prisons operate disciplinary hearings where allegations of rule-breaking are tried.

These mainly concern disobedience, disrespect or property offences, which increase as conditions in prisons deteriorate.

Frances Crook, chief executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "The system of adjudications has become a monster.

"Originally intended as a way to punish incidents of unacceptable conduct, it is now routinely used as a behaviour management technique by prisons that are out of control.

"Instead of solving the problems, these punishments feed a vicious cycle, piling more pressure on the prison population and worsening overcrowding, which in turn creates conditions for drug abuse and violence.

"At the same time, rules to incentivise prisoners' behaviour have been made more punitive, which is also contributing to the poisonous atmosphere behind bars.

"The government has acknowledged that there are problems in the system, but warm words are not enough.

"The imposition of additional days should be seen as a sign of a poorly performing prison and included in new measures being proposed to monitor safety and order.

"The rules around incentives and earned privileges must also be revised, as ministers have now promised."

The MoJ has recognised that the prison disciplinary system is problematic and in need of reform.

Earlier this month, the MoJ published a white paper which states that governors will be encouraged to take a restorative approach.

Mayor will support legal action against Heathrow third runway

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SADIQ Khan says he will support legal action against a third runway at Heathrow airport.

The Mayor hit out at the "devastating environmental consequences" of the expansion plan as he instructed Transport for London to assist councils seeking a legal challenge.

It is understood that Wandsworth, Richmond and Hillingdon councils are among the local authorities preparing a joint case with Greenpeace in a bid to stop the move.

Mr Khan, who had previously refused to declare his support for legal action, did not rule out joining the challenge himself.

He said he would be ready to play an "active role" at a later date if his intervention was required.

The Government has set out its support for Heathrow expansion despite opposition from high-profile Conservative MPs – including Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

Speaking during Mayor's Question Time at City Hall today (Wednesday November 16), Mr Khan reaffirmed his objections to the third runway and warned that an extra 200,000 Londoners would face "unacceptable" noise levels on a daily basis.

"I promised I wouldn't just stand by and see hundreds of thousands suffer from the additional noise and air pollution that a third runway would cause," he added.

"These decisions show that I'm ready to help ensure that this misery isn't inflicted on Londoners."

"That's why I've directed TfL to provide their expert advice and assistance to support the councils and Greenpeace as they prepare for a joint legal challenge, and why I'll be ready for us to play an active role in the action if required."

Council leaders and environmental campaigners welcomed the announcement and called on ministers to abandon their support for Heathrow.

Greenpeace UK executive director John Sauven said: "A third runway at Heathrow will inevitably heap more misery on hundreds



London Mayor Sadiq Khan is instructing Transport for London to assist councils in mounting a legal challenge against the construction of a third runway at Heathrow airport

of thousands of Londoners already suffering from illegal levels of air pollution.

"It's time for ministers to stop defending Heathrow's right to pollute and blight our capital city and start championing people's right to breathe clean air and live in a healthy environment."

TfL has been instructed to further assess the impact of Heathrow expansion on London, Mr Khan said.

Transport chiefs will also work closely with government officials in the preparation of the planning process to ensure "significant environmental hurdles" are acknowledged.

Drone near miss as plane prepares to land

A PLANE carrying more than 150 passengers narrowly avoided crashing into a drone hovering above central London.

Air safety experts said the Airbus A320 had been lucky to dodge the device as it prepared to land at Heathrow.

The plane was passing over the Shard in July when the pilot noticed the 50cm drone from the flight deck window.

Experts classified the incident as "high" risk and said

"chance" had been a major factor in the avoidance of a collision.

The report said the drone operator, who has not been traced, should not have been flying the device so close to the flight path.

According to the report, the pilot estimated that the drone was only 20 metres away from the plane and that there had been no time to take any evasive action.

A total of 165 people had been

on board the plane at the time of the near miss on July 18.

The UK Airprox Board report classified the incident risk level as "Category A" – the highest determination.

It said: "The Board considered that the pilot's estimate of separation, allied to his overall account of the incident, portrayed a situation where a collision had only been narrowly avoided and chance had played a major part."

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Kittens find a foster mum in Battersea's own Peppa Pug

BY GEOFF BAKER

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ABANDONED kittens taken in by Battersea Dogs and Cats Home have found a new foster mum in Peppa Pug.

The two-week-old kittens were born in a West London stairwell and abandoned by their mother, and had a hard start in life until they met the Pug who now mothers them as if they are her own.

Peppa was also found as a stray and was brought into Battersea in April. Staff at the charity feared she had been used for back-street breeding. Her body showed the signs of bearing multiple litters and she had mastitis, an infection in her mammary glands.

Her luck changed when she was adopted by Battersea Canine Behaviourist and Training Advisor Louise Taylor who fostered her whilst she recovered from her surgery.

Louise and Peppa are now fostering Conker, Pickle and Pumpkin, tiny kittens that are so young – they were only a day old when they

arrived at Battersea - they require bottle-feeding around the clock.

"As soon as Peppa set eyes on the tiny kittens, she decided they were her responsibility," said a Battersea spokeswoman.

"Now the kittens spend their time snuggled close to protective Peppa in her basket, while she washes them, and mothers them like they are her own."

Louise said: "We knew Peppa had been a mother before and she's a natural. She won't let Conker, Pickle and Pumpkin out of her sight and is constantly washing them and making sure they're all clean.

"It's been lovely to see the four of them together, especially knowing these three kittens had such an unlucky start in life."

All three kittens have new homes lined up for when they are old enough to be adopted but Battersea says it has plenty of other dogs and cats looking for their forever home – which can be seen on their website battersea.org.uk



Peppa Pug with abandoned kitten Conker

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The late Terry Wogan's family, sons Alan and Mark, daughter Katherine and wife Lady Helen Wogan

Beeb's gesture of thanks to Terry

THE BBC building from where Sir Terry Wogan broadcast his last Radio 2 breakfast show has been renamed after him.

BBC Western House, located next to New Broadcasting House, will now be known as BBC Wogan House.

The Wogan family, who were on hand to see the building's new signage unveiled last week, said they were "extremely touched by such a wonderful gesture".

Sir Terry, who died in January, hosted the Radio 2 breakfast show from 1972 and 1984 and again from 1993 to 2009.

The much-loved DJ was last on air on Radio 2 in November 2015, presenting his Weekend Wogan show.

In a statement, the Wogan family said Radio 2 had been "such an important part of Terry's life".

They added: "He spent so many happy years there doing what he loved - chatting and laughing with the listeners from his studio in BBC Western House every weekday morning."

BBC director of radio Bob Shennan said:

"There's a photo upstairs on the wall of Radio 2 and it's of Terry standing right here, on the morning of his final Breakfast Show. He's standing addressing a crowd, arms aloft like a prize fighter, acknowledging the crowd with a big smile on his face. There were photographers, reporters, camera crews, well-wishers, BBC people, an extraordinary crowd of people on an extraordinary day reflecting on an extraordinary man."

"So it's such a great privilege for us to be able to unveil a new name for this building where he built the fantastic success of Radio 2."

"It means that any time any of us walk through these doors, we will automatically think of Terry and his charm and we will smile."

Around the world search for new Met chief

THE new Chief of the Met may be a Mountie.

For the first time, applications from police chiefs in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA will be accepted alongside those from senior British policemen in the recruitment process to find a replacement for Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe.

The Home Office has posted an advert for the £276,000 job as Britain's top cop, for which US county sheriffs can also apply.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe is set to retire in February and Home Secretary Amber Rudd's advert says the successful candidate "will work in partnership with the range of London's local and regional agencies and other criminal justice part-

ners to ensure that the public feel and are safe, secure and confident, and that crime is prevented, offenders are brought to justice and the continuing threat from terrorism is responded to effectively."

At a policing conference in London, the Home Secretary said: "I look forward to some very talented applications coming through for that very important role."

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said: "The Met do an incredible service with enormous dedication every single day to keep us safe. It is therefore absolutely essential that we find the best possible person to take the Met forward over the coming years."



Simon Cowell takes a turn on the dodgem cars

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

HYDE Park Winter Wonderland opened its gates to a star-studded crowd for its 10th year anniversary.

To celebrate the milestone, a show of celebrities came down to show their support. Simon Cowell, Laura Whitmore, Eva Longoria, Tom Daley, Ella Eyre, Anton Du Beke, Nick Grimshaw, Anais Gallagher, Rafferty Law and Mel C were amongst the first guests to experience this year's event.

Organised by PWR Events and The Royal Parks, this year's Hyde Park Winter Wonderland will celebrate its anniversary with an array of new attractions and entertainment.

New attractions this year include The Nutcracker on Ice featuring world-class skating in a stunning new indoor venue, the Winter Palace Theatre, the all new Arctic Adventure at The Magical Ice Kingdom and family favourite The Sooty Christmas Show.

Other attractions returning include the UK's largest outdoor Ice Rink, Zippo's Circus and Cirque Berserk, Giant Observation Wheel, The Bavarian Village and over 200 chalets in the Christmas market.

Hyde Park Winter Wonderland opened to the public last Friday for 6-weeks of festive-filled fun from 10am-10pm.

Hyde Park Winter Wonderland is busiest during weekends and evenings, so organisers recommend visits on weekday mornings and afternoons and during the school holidays.



Strictly's Anton Du Beke takes a turn around the floor with Santa



Tom Daley, Eva Longoria and Sinitta arrive for some fun



Charity quiz raises more than £10,000



Clive Anderson with the winning team - The Misfits

TV presenter Clive Anderson helped to draw in quizzers at Chelsea Old Town Hall to raise funds for the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals charity.

The evening unique. Huge thanks, also, to Richard Warren for crafting such an original and dynamic quiz for the charity. The evening raised a whopping £10,000.

● EARLIER that day, Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Charity hosted its first ever Christmas Gift Fair, which played host to more than 35 independent stallholders selling local products that drew in festive shoppers along the King's Road.

The brilliantly quick-witted Clive Anderson played quizmaster, firing off some seriously tough questions in the grand main room at Chelsea Old Town Hall.

A particular highlight was the stunning live music round performed by pianist Jeremy Limb, who managed to transform Britney Spears' hit 'Baby one more time' into a classical masterpiece.

A delicious dinner of Jago's of Chelsea sausages was served after the third round, providing much-needed sustenance for the tricky questions ahead.

The charity would like to thank everyone who took part, and to Clive Anderson and Jeremy Limb for making the

evening unique. Huge thanks, also, to Richard Warren for crafting such an original and dynamic quiz for the charity.

The evening raised a whopping £10,000.

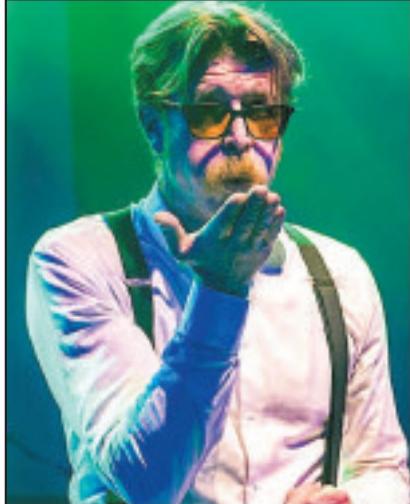
Among them were Paxton and Whitfield cheesemongers selling artisan cheeses and chutneys, New Hall Lavender, selling fragrant moisturisers, Bethlehem Baubles, offering delicate hand-blown tree decorations from Jerusalem and CozyGlo, selling nightlights for children.

There was also organic honey, English sparkling wine, jewellery and cashmere clothing on offer, among much more.

All stallholders donated 10 per cent of their sales to the charity, which is very grateful to everyone who took part, raising a further £3,500 for the cause.



Community fundraiser Lisa from the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals charity does her best Father Christmas impression while drawing in the King's Road crowds



Jessie Hughes on stage



Special guests Chas and Dave perform during the concert



Paul Smith, singer in Maximo Park

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A perfect night of peaceful noise

BY JACK DIXON

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STARS from the music world came together in Shepherd's Bush to unite against terror – one year on from the horrific attacks in Paris.

A commemorative concert featuring top bands was held in memory of merchandise seller Nick Alexander, who died inside the Bataclan theatre last November.

He had toured with some of Britain's biggest acts and was known as a friend and confidant to the stars.

Maximo Park, Frank Turner and Gaz Coombes were among the artists who performed at the O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire during the memorial gig, titled A Peaceful Noise.

Hundreds of fans packed out the venue to pay their respects to Nick and celebrate music as a unifying force.

The event was hailed as a "perfect night" proving that "music speaks volumes".

Nick's sister Zoe Alexander, who organised the show, said the family had received hundreds of messages of support in the wake of the attacks.

"The positivity and solidarity in those messages was clear – music fans would not let this terrible act divide them," she said.

"They would stand up for the liberty and freedom music had brought them and use it as a force for understanding and tolerance."

Nick had been running the merchandise stall for US rock band the Eagles of Death Metal on the night that terrorists broke into the Bataclan theatre, killing 89 people. He was 35 years old.

During a 15-year career in the business, Nick had been a dedicated professional and won the respect of many renowned artists.

He toured with Maximo Park, who headlined the show on Tuesday (November 15) and was a close friend of Frank Turner, who also appeared on the bill.

"Nick was a solidly lovely human being, just one of those people who's clearly one of the good guys. Warm, kind friendly and unpretentious," said Turner, in a recent interview with NME.

"[The attacks] made a lot of people nervous for a time. Certainly it was scary going on stage in Newcastle the following night."

"I think it also made people defiant, though. There was a real sense of identity among music fans and workers, an idea that we wouldn't be cowed by this and that we'd remember those lost."

Proceeds from the event are going towards the Nick Alexander Memorial Trust – the charity set up by Zoe to help young musicians gain a foothold in the industry – and the Sweet Stuff Foundation, which works to support disabled performers.

One in three London deaths due to cancer

MACMILLAN Cancer Support is calling for "a major transformation" in cancer care after new figures have revealed that the disease is responsible for one in three deaths in London.

Since the turn of the century cancer has become the biggest killer in the capital and causes around 29 per cent of deaths in the city, with heart disease being the second biggest cause, according to data released from the Office for National Statistics.

Macmillan Cancer Support says these figures reveal a "seismic shift" in how people in the capital are dying and warns that a huge boost in cancer care must happen to cope with increased demand.

Ed Tallis, Head of Services for Macmillan Cancer Support in London, said: "These figures reveal that cancer claims more lives than any other disease in London each year. We believe that too many people dying of cancer are still ending their days without the right care and support."

"These people need to be made as comfortable as possible, and they should be involved in decisions about their care, including where they choose to die, and who is with them when they die."

"People who are caring for loved ones at the

end of life should also be supported through what is often an extremely distressing time."

He added: "The number of deaths is shocking, but we must remember that more and more people are being diagnosed with cancer overall, and more are surviving too. ONS figures released earlier this year showed that in London alone, the number of people surviving for at least one year after diagnosis has increased by more than 10 percentage points in 15 years."

"At Macmillan, we believe that everyone should be supported to live as well as possible, for as long as possible after a cancer diagnosis."

"We know that the impact of cancer can be managed if people have access to the right treatment, care and support, including the Recovery Package."

"We also know the effects of cancer don't end when treatment does – people should receive tailored follow up care as well. We are calling for this care and support to be available to everyone with cancer across London."

MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT

Working as a community to make good ideas happen

London's MEP SYED KAMALL on the benefits of raising your own funds to get community projects off the ground



CROWDFUNDING is the future - but Londoners have been at it for years. I am a huge supporter of crowdfunding and crowdsourcing - where people come together to fund or offer support to projects they believe are important.

It represents a huge opportunity to enhance the future prosperity of our cities and our neighbourhoods - but here in London, crowdfunding is not a new concept.

In 1850, the merchants, bankers and traders of the City of London held a crisis meeting. The original private contract to stage the Great Exhibition of 1851 had to be scrapped. There was no public funding available.

Looking back, it is extraordinary to think that this visionary project - to share the wonders of arts, industry and commerce of the time - was nearly cancelled.

The financiers needed a new idea. And with the ingenuity of desperation, they came up with a plan B, a funding plan just as cutting edge as the idea of the Crystal Palace itself. They would appeal to the people of the country directly. The motion was proposed and seconded "to rest the success of the proposed exhibition entirely upon public liberality". The Great Exhibition would be crowdfunded.

Today, funding for all kinds of public projects is hard going. The need to do something about our ballooning national debt has tightened the government's purse-strings, even as London's economic success keeps expanding its population.

So once again, crowdfunding is coming centre stage.

The power of the internet has turbocharged the old model as industrial-scale giving becomes increasingly out of touch with our personal, digital world.

People want more transparency. We worry about fancy offices, well-paid CEOs and sadly, in some cases, the over-politicisation of large charities. We don't want our money to just disappear into a big pot. We want more control.

Crowdfunding can offer opportunities for local community charities in your own backyard. Dozens of online platforms allow ordinary people to lend or donate money, collectively financing projects that would otherwise have been impossible.

Kickstarter's users fund experiments in creativity. Experiment.com users back original scientific research.

Kiva lets an entrepreneur in a poorer country find a pool of backers living in wealthier countries. And here at home, crowdfunding's potential to support social enterprise is, at last, beginning to be taken seriously.

Since its launch in 2009, Kickstarter alone has helped raise over \$2.5 billion, successfully financing over 110,000 projects. Kiva has provided over \$880 million in small loans. Imagine for a moment that this type of micro financing was available for projects currently struggling to guarantee funding within the public sector.

How much more could we achieve if citizens and community governments worked together to fund and prioritise what matters most to local residents?

The Purley Youth Project had its council funding cut. So they too looked for a plan B in crowdfunding. They are using the crowdfunding website CrowdPatch right now to raise £3,000 so they can continue to take children on educational trips throughout the year. If you want to contribute, the campaign is running until November, and they have more than a

third raised already thanks to public generosity.

Right now, there are crowdfunding platforms for everything from publishing to venture capital. But so far we don't have one that specialises in raising funds for better local infrastructure. Wouldn't it be great if there was a platform for local community groups and organisations where they could propose local projects to improve their neighbourhood? For the first time, people would have a hub where they could find and contribute to projects that are important to them.

Imagine wanting a screen showing the upcoming bus arrival times at your nearest bus stop. If that monitor is important to your community, contributions from nearby businesses and other users could make the project happen, fast. You could cut out a long and uncertain wait for government help that may never turn up.

And for larger projects - renovating a school or extending a line of public transportation into your neighbourhood - agreements may be made with district councils to partially fund these developments. Londoners would then only make up the difference where government funding wasn't enough.

What if Redbridge Council wanted to renovate a park, but came up short on funds? The council could use a crowdfunding platform to reach out to its constituents to make up the shortfall. Because when you ask people directly, they support the projects that matter to them. And especially if you can promise it will happen if enough of their fellow citizens agree.

Take Grange Park in Old Coulsdon. The playground was outdated, so a group of locals called 'Friends of Grange Park' took it upon themselves to raise £100,000 to develop a fully inclusive playground.

They crowdfunded, receiving funds from the BIFFA award, national lottery and other businesses, all looking to support the local community. It was an incredible effort from the community. Let's make it easier for other groups to follow in their footsteps.

Crowdfunding, as the organisers of the Great Exhibition saw back in 1850, is democracy in action. When we are all directly involved in prioritising spending, we make our government far more accountable.

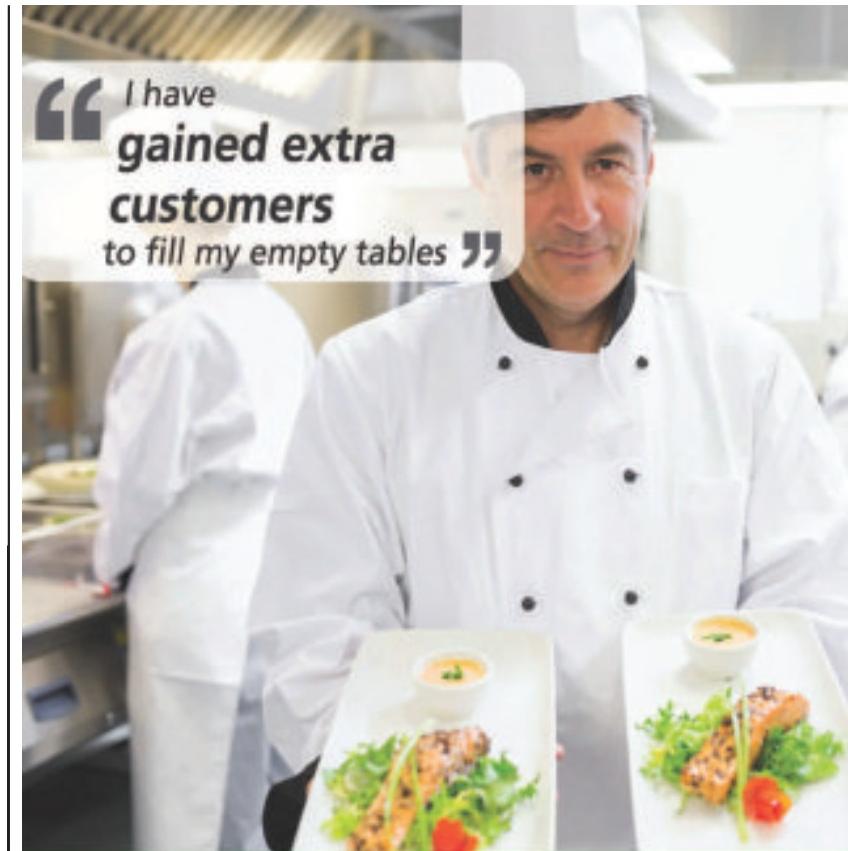
Today, an activist group can tell its district council that there is wide support for the building of a new library, but unless there is an easy way to demonstrate that support, it is too easy to overlook those claims.

And for local councillors and political parties, crowdfunding or crowdsourcing can be a tool to reach out and hear from citizens. You will know in real-time about your constituents' budget priorities. And there will be a greater incentive to be responsive to those priorities as they change. Through many small contributions, citizens send a clear message: this is what we care about.

No, crowdfunding is not a long-term solution for financing in the public sector. For that, we need smart tax reform. We need to give local government greater control. We need to bring decisions about tax and how to spend it closer to local communities. Given that this great centralisation of state spending could take years to achieve, what can local communities do now?

In 1850, the great liberal economist Frederic Bastiat marvelled at the Great Exhibition's funding model. And he wrote about the spirit it expressed in it: "Our adversaries consider, that an activity which is neither aided by supplies, nor regulated by government, is an activity destroyed. We think just the contrary. Their faith is in the legislator, not in mankind; ours is in mankind."

London's population will hit 9 million by 2020 and 10 million by 2030. It's time to have faith in the crowd. Crowdfunding has the potential to bring together people from all backgrounds and beliefs to work as a community for the common good. It's about making sure good ideas happen, together.



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Festive season lights up early in Portobello and Golborne Market

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

CHRISTMAS came early for shoppers as one of London's most famous market streets kicked off this year's festive celebrations. Traders at the Portobello and Golborne Road Market toasted the spirit of the season as the Christmas lights were switched on in Tavistock Road.

Elizabeth Rutherford, the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, was joined by school children from across the borough to bring the lights to life on Saturday (November 19).

And six-year-old Taina Matthew, from St Charles Primary School, was given the honour of flicking the final switch after her colourful Christmas card design impressed judges in a school competition.

She was joined by dozens of onlookers as the giant Christmas Tree in Tavistock Road was lit up for the first time.

The switch-on marked the start of the countdown to Christmas, with only four weeks to go until the big day.

It will be a busy period for market traders as shoppers flock to pick up last-minute gifts for their loved ones.

Market managers are pulling out all the stops once again this year in a bid to boost footfall at the much-loved market.

Shoppers who visit Portobello and Golborne Road between now and Christmas will be able to take a trip round the market's own 'Toddy Trail', with several local businesses and market stalls offering discounts and coupons in the run-up to December 25.

Shoppers will also be able to collect stickers for a prize draw – and the chance to win two tickets to the Electric Cinema and a tub of Jude's Hot Toddy ice cream.

As an extra incentive for shoppers in a hurry, one stall will even be offering to gift-wrap presents on December 2, 3, 4, 10 and 17.

The iconic market sits right at the heart of street-shopping in London and is often frequented by famous faces.

This year shoppers can vote for Portobello and Golborne to be named 'Britain's Favourite Market' by visiting www.nabma.com from December 1 to January 10.



Singers from the 'Sing to Live, Live to Sing' choir entertained the audience with Christmas carols



Taina Matthew (front) who switched on the lights with her family Jevan Matthew, Anna Pau and sister Amaia, two



Drummer Emmanuel Igwebe allows one young fan a go on his drum, with the Mayor Councillor Rutherford



RBKC Markets Development Officer Mark Atkinson, Mayor of RBKC Elizabeth Rutherford and volunteer market coordinator Claudia De Monte at the big switch on



Drummer Emmanuel Igwebe



Carollers from Sing to Live, Live to Sing



The market tree in Tavistock Road to welcome the start of the festive season



Wrap up your Christmas at Portobello and Golborne Road Market

TAINA MATTHEW,
AGE 6
ST CHARLES
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Fruit and vegetables for your dinner, antiques and fashion for your gifts, international street food while you shop.

Join the Toddy Trail for special discounts and promotions at market stalls and local shops.

Collect stickers for a chance to win tickets to the Electric Cinema and a tub of Jude's Laphroaig Hot Toddy ice cream.

Get your presents wrapped at a fundraising gift wrap stall on 2, 3, 4, 10 and 17 December.

Vote 'Portobello and Golborne' Britain's Favourite Market at www.nabma.com from 1 December 2016 to 10 January 2017.

For details visit:
www.rbkc.gov.uk/ourmarkets

Twitter: [@rbkcmarkets](#) Facebook: [@rbkcmarkets](#) Instagram: [#pogomkt](#)

Opening times

Thursday	22 December	Open until 7pm*
Saturday	24 December	Open until 7pm*
Monday	26 December	Closed
Tuesday	27 December	Closed
Saturday	31 December	Open until 7pm*
Monday	2 January 2017	Closed

*some stalls may close early



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Keep on running to make a stand for

THE royal drive to combat mental illness has found its secret weapon in the fight against the crippling blues.

Heads Together, the campaign conceived and led by Prince Harry and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, could turn life around for thousands who suffer from mental ill health next year when it will be the official charity partner of the London Marathon.

The massive event, for which a record 254,000 people entered the public ballot for the chance to run, will be harnessed by the young royals to flag up their push to change attitudes to mental illness and end the stigma which has been associated with it for so long.

But the Marathon is likely to achieve even more than that – it could be the key answer that many who are afflicted by depression and anxiety and the consequences of anti-depressants have been looking for.

Medical experts admit that when the drugs don't work, putting on your running shoes will.

Prince Harry stressed the promotional importance of the event that he wants to make "a marathon for mental health" when he and the Duke and Duchess announced the tie up of Heads Together with the Virgin Money spectacular earlier this year.

He said: "It's not rocket science, but most of us don't know what to do if a friend or family member is suffering. Having some basic knowledge, and having the confidence to act on your knowledge, can make a huge difference to those around us.

"We all have mental health just as we all have physical health. Too often we think mental health problems are things that happen to other people, not us.

"But we will all experience pressure on our mental health at some point during our lives. The more we accept that, the better we can help each other. Catching it and recognising it



The Virgin London Marathon goes down The Mall. This year the official charity partner will be Heads Together, the mental health charity launched by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry

early, saves lives.

So, it's time we ended the shame around mental health – the fear of judgment that stops people talking or getting help.

"One of the upcoming opportunities we have to spread the message about ending the stigma on mental health is the Virgin Money 2017 London Marathon – one of the largest sporting and mass participation events on earth. Heads Together has the privilege of being the 2017 charity partner of the year.

"We want as many London Marathon runners as possible, spectators around the course and people watching at home to get involved and make it a marathon for mental health.

"All of us have mental health. So the more we all get behind this topic, the more we can help not just the individuals suffering, but also their entire families and work colleagues as well. Together we will break the stigma forever and save lives."

But doctors say that the marathon could also be of huge direct benefit to the mentally ill, not only by helping to make others more sensitive to their issues but also helping many of them to get well again.

"When drugs and therapy don't cure depression, running will," says leading medical expert Dr Joseph Mercola.

"Regular exercise is one of the secret weapons to overcoming depression. It works so well because it helps to normalize insulin

‘Patients need not rely on drugs to treat depression’

resistance while boosting “feel good” hormones in your brain.

"In one study, which involved 80 adults aged 20 to 45 years who were diagnosed with mild to moderate depression, researchers looked at exercise alone to treat the condition and found:

- Depressive symptoms were cut almost in half in those individuals who participated in 30-minute aerobic exercise sessions, three to five times a week after 12 weeks.
- Those who exercised with low-intensity for three and five days a week showed a 30 percent reduction in symptoms.
- Participants who did stretching flexibility exercises 15 to 20 minutes three days a week averaged a 29 per cent decline

"The results of this study are similar to that of other studies, which involved pa-



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Royal Heads Together for mental health

mental health, say royals

tients with mild or moderate depression being treated with antidepressants or cognitive therapy -- proving patients need not rely on drugs to treat depression.

"As Dr. James S. Gordon, a world-renowned expert in using mind-body medicine to heal depression, said: 'What we're finding in the research on physical exercise is, the physical exercise is at least as good as antidepressants for helping people who are depressed, physical exercise changes the level of serotonin in your brain.'

"It changes, increases their levels of "feel good" hormones, the endorphins. And also, and these are amazing studies, it can increase the number of cells in your brain, in the region of the brain, called the hippocampus.

"It's very important because sometimes in depression, there are fewer of those cells in the hippocampus, but you can actually change your brain with exercise. So it's got to be part of everybody's treatment, everybody's plan.'

"Regular, appropriately-intense exercise is a must for most people suffering from depression, and it can go a long way to improving your mood."

Another fan of mending the mind through running is snooker star Ronnie O'Sullivan, who took to running up to 50 miles a week after suffering from anxiety.

"Running is the best therapy I've ever had," testified O'Sullivan, who was on Prozac when he won his first world title.

In his autobiography, appropriately titled *Running*, he stated: "Running is what has helped me to fight my demons, win five world snooker championships and cope with all the crap that life has thrown at me. My running trainers are the most important things I own."

Amateur marathon-runner Jessica Skarzynski is another who will endorse the huge benefits of the Kensington Palace campaign to get London running for mental health.

"I've always had an anxious personality. Every time there was a big change in my life, I suffered from heavy bouts of anxiety and panic attacks, even back in middle school. It was tough growing up with that," she revealed last year after the benefits of running enabled her to stop needing medication.

"Once I got out of high school and moved away to college on my own, that kicked things up to a whole new level of anxiety and depression. I had the freedom to do whatever I wanted, but couldn't. I felt like I was trapped in my own body -- because, at 100 pounds overweight, I physically couldn't do a lot of the things that other girls my age could do."

"I felt trapped in my own mind. I was unable to just go out and have fun, because I couldn't break out of that vicious cycle of anxiety. I made a couple of friends, but I always felt outside of things. I turned to stress eating. I was depressed, on daily anti-anxiety medication, and eventually weighed over 270 pounds."

"I finally realised that I could take control of my body; I had more power than I thought. I exercised slow and steady at first. I'd sit on the bike for 45 minutes every other day. But



Marathon runner Jessica Skarzynski says that the sport finally helped her to take control of her body and beat her anxiety

once I started to drop weight, 40 pounds in the first four months, I started to plateau. So I had to explore other options to keep myself interested in working out. I tried everything my gym offered, from kickboxing and weight lifting to group fitness and dance classes.

"But I finally found my happy pace when I started running. I used to say I wouldn't run unless I was being chased. Then, I suddenly became the girl that liked to hit the treadmill and go outside to just run until I couldn't run anymore. I felt like, ah, this is something I can really get into."

"Running became my time to clear my head. It was almost better than therapy. And at the same time that I started to increase my mileage and really get into distance running, I was actually able to wean myself off of medication and therapy. I thought, 'Hey, maybe I can do a half marathon.' I ran my first race in 2010."

"Of course, I didn't realise what was happening at the time. But I when came out the other side, I thought, 'Oh my gosh, running made all the difference'. Once I finally started to get healthy, I was able to make up for lost time and really live my life."

"Now I have lost more than 100 pounds and I've also been off medication for close to seven years."

"Sure, there are times when things get a bit stressful. Sometimes, life is a struggle. But getting those miles in helps me cope."

"I tell myself, 'It's not as bad as you think it is. This doesn't mean you have to spiral. Let's put one foot in front of the other. Lace up your sneakers, just put the headphones on. Even if you go around the block, just go do something. Because once you get out there, you are going to feel better.'

"I know that it's going to be painful, mentally, to hash things out in my head as I am running. But I know that if I don't, it's just going to get worse. Running never fails to raise my mood and hit my reset button."

Hopes are high that at least one of the young royals will lead by example and join the tens of thousands in the London Marathon next year. To find out how you can support the royals' mental health campaign and Heads Together, go to headstogether.org.uk



Prince Harry is passionate about helping injured ex-servicemen

Jobs for the boys

PRINCE Harry's increasingly-successful Invictus Games are doing still more than giving wounded, sick and injured ex-servicemen pride, confidence and medals -- the international Paralympic-style multi-sport event is helping to get them jobs too.

Harry's drive to do all that he can for the veterans is inspiring sponsors and partners of the games, which will be next held in Toronto in 2017 and in Sydney the year after that.

Finding a job is among one of the most difficult challenges that face veterans who leave the Services due to a disirement. But led by Harry's championing of the needs of veterans, big business is responding to his call.

Jaguar Land Rover, a principal partner of Harry's games, plans to hire at least 1,000 ex-service men and women by 2020, to join the more than 200 it has already taken on since pledging its support for the Invictus Games.

Other games partners who are also committed to hiring veterans include Coca-Cola, Disney, Down Chemical and Medcan, the Canadian health-care company sponsoring next September's Games in Toronto.

It is likely that Harry's jobs drive for veterans will be further bolstered in 2018 when the games -- which have also won support of The Queen and President and Michelle Obama -- are staged in Sydney.

Speaking last year to the Daily Mirror during his support for Walking For The Wounded, Harry powerfully spelled out why he is so motivated to help other former military.

"Working at London District's Personnel Recovery Unit, I have seen the chal-

lenges that some ex-service men and women have to face on a daily basis," he said.

"Having to adapt to life with a physical injury, for example. Or learning to cope with the hidden wounds of war -- the mental scars -- that can affect every part of a person's life: their self-esteem, their ability to work or socialise around others, even their sleeping patterns."

"These hurdles can all have an impact on someone's ability to find meaningful employment. And in some cases, that has an impact on where they live. Without a job, how can they expect to afford appropriate housing? Then what happens to their families?"

"With no home, some end up living in temporary accommodation, or sofa-surfing among their mates. In the worst circumstances, some end up on the street."

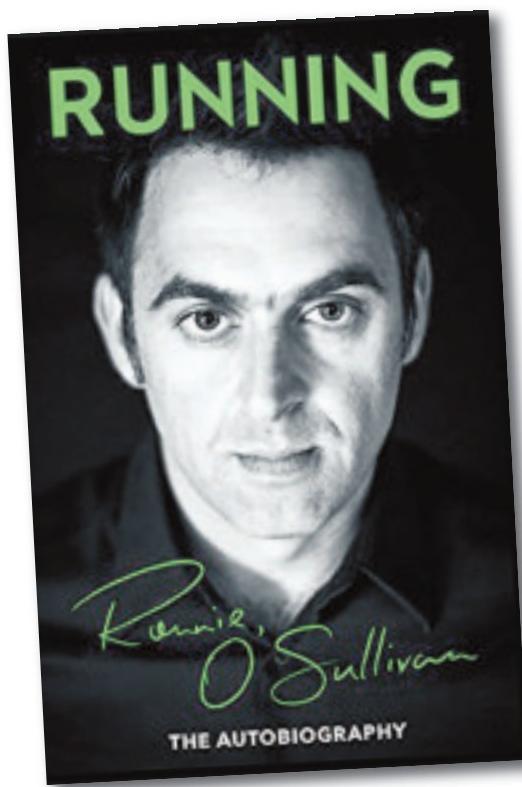
"These are men and women who have set an example to us all about the values of service, duty and dedication."

"They have put their lives on the line to keep us safe. They deserve better."

"Often, all they need is a little support and direction. If they can find the right job, they can get back what they crave the most: their independence and to provide security for their family."

Hundreds of ex-service men and women from 17 countries, including newcomers The Ukraine and Romania, will compete in Toronto in sports including athletics, swimming, powerlifting, wheelchair basketball and cycling and more countries are expected to be invited to join for the Sydney games.

To support Harry's games, go to invictusgamesfoundation.org



Ronnie O'Sullivan has titled his autobiography 'Running'. He says it's the best therapy he has ever had

Rotary cash boost for Pimlico Puffins

THE Westminster International Rotary Club (WIRC) has been a long-time supporter of the Pimlico Puffins, the swimming club for the disabled in the heart of Westminster.

At the Annual Gala of the Pimlico Puffins at the Queen Mother's Sport Centre in Victoria on November 6, John Bartlett, President of WIRC presented a cheque over GBP 1,000 to Pimlico Puffins' chairman, Natasha Fleming.

Pimlico Puffins is a swimming club for those who have learning difficulties or physical disability and who would like to learn to swim or exercise in the water. All ages, size, shapes and characters attend the club to enjoy a swim.

Mr Bartlett said: "The Westminster International Rotary Club is a proud supporter of the swimming club and it is wonderful to see the joy of the swimmers at today's gala event. We would like to thank Natasha and her team of volunteers for their fantastic effort."

The event was attended by friends, families and supporters of the club. The accomplishments of the swimmers was recognised during the award ceremony, where the Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster, Angela Harvey, handed out the trophies to the proud winners.

Puffins' chairman Ms Fleming said: "We are delighted to have the Westminster International Rotary Club as a supporter of our efforts, and we are pleased that so many Rotarians are here today to make this gala a great success."

The Pimlico Puffins Swimming Club was founded in September 1981 by Barry Meekins, a member of Westminster East Rotary Club (now Westminster International Rotary Club) and the club has supported this project ever since.

English tests for taxi drivers

PRIVATE hire taxi drivers have reacted angrily to new rules that mean they face a ban if they cannot speak English.

Their union says it is "scarcely believable" that the Transport for London scheme means drivers could lose their license if they cannot understand passengers.

Now the GMB union is organising a protest against the tests at the City Hall on Thursday, December 8.

"Drivers risk losing their licence if they cannot prove they have a secondary school-level qualifications," said a union spokesman.

"If they do not have a GCSE certificate, they must undergo a day-long language test under belittling classroom conditions. Private hire taxi drivers are being forced to stump up £180 to prove they speak English - even if they are born and raised in this country."

"Private hire operators in London are furious about the move and Steve Garelick, GMB's secretary for professional drivers, has written to the London Assembly to raise members' concerns."

He said: "Forcing workers - many born and raised in Britain - to fork out £200 just to prove they can speak English is totally unacceptable."

"GMB recognises the need for drivers to have good communication skills - but these measures are above and beyond what is required. It's a sledgehammer to crack a nut."



Monkey business at London Zoo

LONDON Zoo is planning to kick out the birds in its iconic aviary to replace them with monkeys in an enclosure that people can walk through.

The aviary, designed by Anthony Armstrong Jones (Lord Snowdon), celebrated its 50th anniversary last year and overlooks Regent's Canal and Primrose Hill. When it was constructed in 1962 it was considered architecturally ahead of its time.

The plan will transform the grade two listed aviary into an enclosure for Colobus monkeys, giving visitors a chance to get up close and personal with the primates.

Earlier this year the zoo secured its first stage of funding to "modernise" the aviary which they say will give more space to interact with audiences.

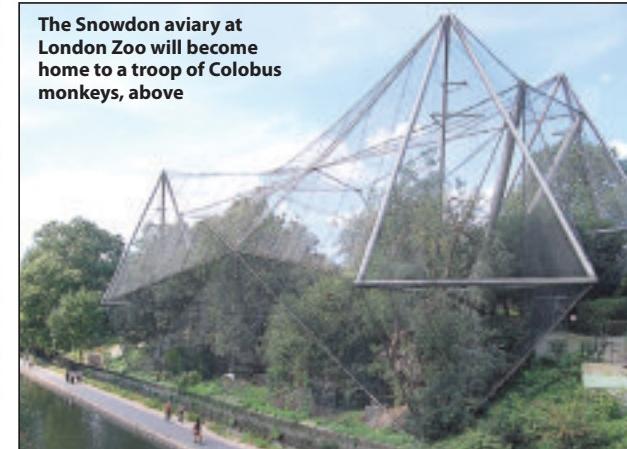
The bold new £7.1m makeover plans will see the majestic birds, including white ibis and peacocks, move to another aviary inside the complex or potentially to another zoo.

ZSL's director of fundraising, James Wren said: "The restoration of the Snowdon Aviary will put ZSL London Zoo at the heart of the community.

"As a charity, ZSL are reliant upon the generous support of our donors.

"We now have to raise the £2m in match-funding we will need to realise this exciting project and give the historic Snowdon Aviary a new purpose, enabling us to expand the zoo's education offering and provide many more activities for people of all ages to enjoy."

The Snowdon aviary at London Zoo will become home to a troop of Colobus monkeys, above



Dippy goes on tour

THE Natural History Museum's famous diplodocus skeleton is soon to embark on a three-year tour around the UK.

The iconic exhibit, known as 'Dippy', will visit eight different museums, galleries and cathedrals over the course of the nationwide journey, which kicks off in early 2018.

It will be the first time the skeleton has been on public display outside London since its arrival at the museum in 1905.

Having stood for more than a century, Dippy is making room for a diving blue whale skeleton that will hang from the ceiling of the museum's Hintze Hall.



Dippy the dinosaur pictured when he at the Natural History Museum in 1905 and, above, as he stands today is going on a three-year tour around the UK

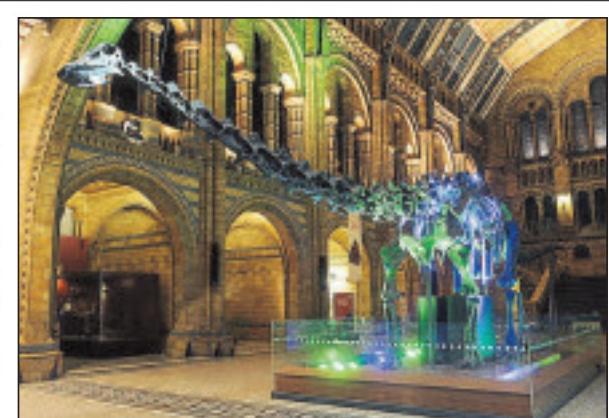
Experts plan to remove the dinosaur in January before beginning a painstaking 12-month process to create a delicate plaster-of-Paris cast for its journey around the country.

Dippy will make his first stop at the Dorset County Museum on the Jurassic Coast - an area with a rich geological history - before heading on to venues in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Ulster Museum, the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow and the Great North Museum in Newcastle upon Tyne are all set to welcome the skeleton, before visits to the National Assembly for Wales, Number One Riverside in Rochdale and Norwich Cathedral by the end of 2020.

Natural History Museum Director Sir Michael Dixon said: "We wanted Dippy to visit unusual locations so he can draw in people who may not traditionally visit a museum."

"Making iconic items accessible to as many people as possible is at the heart of what museums give to the nation, so we have ensured that Dippy will still be free to view at all tour venues."



The tour aims to spark the imagination of a new generation of scientists and to "connect the nation with nature".

Each of the museums on the tour will use Dippy's visit to showcase their local collections.

Dr Jon Murden, from the Dorset County Museum where Dippy will make his first stop, said: "There are connections to be made between our internationally significant fossil collections and current coastal management, and therefore we're delighted to be working in partnership on this tour with the Jurassic Coast Team and Trust."

"As the birthplace of palaeontology, there is nowhere in the UK more appropriate for Dippy to start the tour than Dorset and we're thrilled to have been chosen as the first host venue."

Stretching to 21.3 metres in length, Dippy has been housed in the Natural History Museum's iconic Hintze Hall since 1979.

The dinosaur's last day on show will be January 4, clearing the way for the blue whale skeleton to take centre stage in the summer of 2017.

The whale was chosen to represent humanity's responsibility to protect the Earth's biodiversity.

CHRISTMAS in West London

SHOWTIME

Christmas is the perfect time to catch a show, with families gathering together, the inclement weather ensuring indoor activities are a sensible option and the break from the average working week meaning most people have good chunks of times to fill, writes Nicky Sweetland.

With a wealth of entertainment to choose from, how can you decide on what to see? Here is a guide of 10 new shows which I think will provide a magical yuletide treat.

● School Of Rock

Based on the iconic, hit movie, Andrew Lloyd Webber's irresistible new musical follows Dewey Finn, a failed, wannabe rock star who decides to earn an extra bit of cash by posing as a supply teacher at a prestigious prep school. There he turns a class of straight-A pupils into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping mind-blowing rock band. But can he get them to the Battle of the Bands without their parents and the school's headmistress finding out?

School of Rock is running at the New London Theatre. Visit uk.schoolofrockthemusical.com.

● Bianco, No Fit State Circus

Back in London for the first time since its successful run at the Roundhouse in 2013, No Fit State presents Bianco at

Southbank Centre, as part of the venue's Winter Festival.

Taking place above, behind and around a standing audience, with a dream-like narrative set to a pounding live band, this is a theatrical experience that is not to be missed.

Bianco, No Fit State Circus, The Southbank, Wednesday, November 23 to Sunday, January 22. Visit www.nofitstate.org/bianco-southbank-centre.

● Half a Sixpence

Following rave reviews and a record-breaking run in Chichester, Cameron Mackintosh's and Chichester Festival Theatre's critically acclaimed hit musical Half a Sixpence transfers to the Noel Coward Theatre in London's West End.

The new stage version of Half a Sixpence, the musical adaptation of HG Wells's semi-autobiographical novel Kipps: The Story of a Simple Soul, is a completely fresh adaptation.

The score is inspired by, and features, several of composer David Heneker's exhilarating songs from the original production, including Flash Bang Wallop, Money to Burn and Half A Sixpence.

Half a Sixpence is running at the Noel Coward Theatre. Visit www.halfasixpence.co.uk.

● A Christmas Carol

The hugely popular re-imagining of Charles Dickens' festive staple A Christmas Carol, starring Simon Callow and directed by Tom Cairns, will return to the Arts Theatre in London for a strictly limited season.

Based on Dickens' own performance of the novel, Simon Callow and director-designer Tom Cairns have created a critically acclaimed, one-man storytelling show that is both heart-warming and deeply moving.

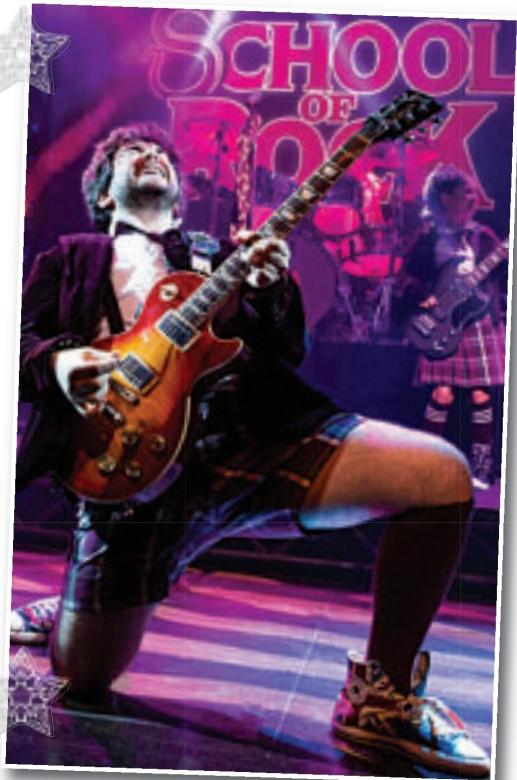
A Christmas Carol is at the Arts Theatre from December 8 to January 7. Visit www.artstheatrewestend.co.uk.

● Dreamgirls

After a 35-year wait, Dreamgirls finally comes to London. This much-anticipated new production will be directed and choreographed by the hugely successful Tony and Olivier award-winning Casey Nicholaw (The Book of Mormon) and stars Amber Riley as Effie White.

Featuring classic songs And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going, I Am Changing, One Night Only and Listen, Dreamgirls follows the journey of a young female singing group from Chicago.

Dreamgirls runs at The Savoy Theatre. Visit www.dreamgirlswestend.com.



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SHOWTIME

● Aladdin

What would you do with three wishes? The Lyric's traditional panto returns when Aladdin flies into Hammersmith on his magic carpet for some festive fun.

The show features colourful characters, live music, lots of laughs and of course the magical genie.

Aladdin is running at the Lyric Hammersmith until January 7. Visit www.lyric.co.uk.

● Cinderella

The most enchanting rags-to-riches fairy tale of them all graces the stage of the West End's most famous theatre this Christmas as pantomime returns to the London Palladium for the first time in nearly 30 years.

With an all-star cast including Amanda Holden, Lee Mead, Paul O'Grady and Julian Clary, this is a lavish and spectacular production features sumptuous costumes and magnificent scenery.

Cinderella is at the London Palladium from December 10 to January 15. Visit www.cinderellapalladium.com.

● Peter Pan Goes Wrong

Following widespread critical acclaim, Peter Pan Goes Wrong returns to the Apollo Theatre. Recently nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Comedy, Peter Pan Goes Wrong sees the team

behind the award-winning box office hit The Play That Goes Wrong bring their trademark comic mayhem to the JM Barrie classic.

In the show members of The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society battle against technical hitches, flying mishaps and cast disputes on their way to Neverland with hilarious and disastrous results.

Peter Pan Goes Wrong runs at the Apollo Theatre until January 29. Visit www.peterpangoeswrong.com

● Dead Funny

Eleanor wants a child. Richard would oblige if he could, but he's too busy running the Dead Funny Society.

When British comedy heroes Frankie Howerd and Benny Hill turn up their toes in the same week the society gather for a celebration of hilarity and laughter, and when your marriage is dearer than Morecambe or Wise, it's hard to see the funny side of things.

Terry Johnson's comedy plays for a strictly limited season and stars Katherine Parkinson, Steve Pemberton, Ralf Little, Emily Berrington and Rufus Jones.

Dead Funny is running at the Vaudeville Theatre. Visit www.nimaxtheatres.com/vaudeville-theatre/dead_funny for more information.

● Buried Child

For the first time, the multi-award winning international star Ed Harris will appear on the West End stage in the critically acclaimed New York production of Sam Shepard's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, Buried Child.

Set in 1979, and casting a brutal light on disenfranchised Americans, Buried Child is a dark, macabre and painfully funny family drama that is as relevant now as it was during its first run almost 40 years ago.

Buried Child is running at the Trafalgar Studios until Saturday, February 18. Visit www.buriedchild-play.co.uk/tickets.

● Don't forget the old favourites are still around to give you a theatrical boost over the festive period with many of the big shows such as Wicked, Kinky Boots, Les Misérables and the Phantom of the Opera putting on extra performances.

If your holiday season is too busy to fit in a theatre trip, all is not lost however, as January is the cheapest time to visit a London show, with the Society of London Theatres' Get into London Theatre scheme offering many tickets at half price. If you would like to see the shows which are taking part this year, visit www.getintolondontheatre.co.uk for more information.



Peter Pan
Goes Wrong

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CHRISTMAS FOOD of the WORLD



Il Pagliaccio hosts star-studded show

Italian restaurant Il Pagliaccio is enlisting help from some of the biggest names in showbusiness to raise money for the thousands of people left homeless by the recent earthquakes in Italy.

Teo Catino, who runs the bistro in Wandsworth Bridge Road, Fulham, is inviting guests to enjoy an evening of entertainment in a bid to support devastated communities in his home country.

Ray Davies, the singer and guitarist with The Kinks, is among the famous faces set to perform at the event, alongside West End star Madalena Alberto and top soprano Monique Loricchio.

Mr Catino and his team will be dishing up a four-course meal during the evening, with a

variety of prizes being auctioned off to raise extra cash.

Tickets for the event, which takes place on Sunday, November 27, cost £50, including a four-course meal and a glass of Prosecco.

Il Pagliaccio will also be spreading the festive cheer this winter with a special Christmas and New Year menu.

Customers can enjoy a three-course dinner, including appetisers to share, from £20 per person – and on New Year's Eve £35 per person. For more information and bookings call 020 7371 5253.

● Il Pagliaccio, 182-184 Wandsworth Bridge Road, Fulham. Visit www.paggs.co.uk or call 020 7371 5253 for more information.

Welcome to Ottoman, the home of delicious charcoal grilled kebabs and mezes. Situated in Hammersmith, we offer a variety of mouth-watering dishes, not only for meat lovers but for vegetarians too. Whether it's our mixed grill or tasty mezes, we have a menu to tantalise your taste buds.

Each meal is cooked to perfection by our experienced and passionate chefs. Apart from having a dining area, we also provide a takeaway option where you can actually see the food being prepared, whilst taking in the smell of fresh barbecued food.

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CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Barber's has the traditional touch

Naz Zeneldeen is the mastermind behind Gentlemen's Grooming Club, Fulham's latest beauty venture.

Opened just seven months ago next door to his successful Hair & Beauty salon, the bespoke male hairdresser's features jazz and blues music and a selection of fine whiskys, beer, tea, and coffee.

"I tried to recreate a very traditional barber shop feel, but I also introduced modern features where I could, without impacting the traditional design," said Naz.

Starting in the beauty industry at just 15 years old, Naz opened his first salon in 2009 and has since made his mark on the salon scene in Fulham.

"The reaction that we most often get from people is 'wow'. The feedback that we have received so far has all been great and people really feel relaxed and pampered when visiting us," he said.

With the philosophy of



Naz Zeneldeen

treating his clients the way that he would want to be treated, Naz strives to maintain a hands-on approach.

"What differentiates us from bigger stores is the personalised customer service and the signature consultation that we use to help us achieve the best results for our clients," he said. "I always recommend to my clients to go for looks that

suit them and enhance their features. When choosing a style, I do a consultation on styling habits because I think that a look should fit the client's lifestyle as well."

The Syrian-born father-of-two has lived in west London for 13 years. "I fell in love with the community feel of the area. I moved in in a heartbeat. Hair & Beauty has been such a success and I am so blessed to have such an amazing clientele," he said.

Prices start from just £8 for a beard trim, £20 for a beard shape and contour, £32 for a bespoke haircut, and £38 for a Luxury Hot Towel Shave.

And with personalised Christmas hampers and gift boxes on the way, it's set to be a very pampered Christmas.

**Naz Zeneldeen
Gentlemen's Grooming Club and Hair & Beauty can be found at 131 & 133 Wandsworth Bridge Road, Fulham, SW6 2TT.**

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The heart and sole of Fulham

Rompski's, one of the oldest key cutting and shoe repair shops in Fulham, has been proudly serving west London for more than 60 years.

The family-run business in the heart of Fulham offers a full shoe and boot refurbishment service, including "while u wait" services and a unique suede and sheepskin cleaning and treatment plan.

Inspired by his father's trade as a shoemaker, Pimlico-born owner Adam Rompski went to college to study shoe-making before branching out into shoe repairs and sales.

He said: "We've been out here since 1955 – a long time. I reckon we're one of the most famous in London. The customers come from everywhere to come here. They love it. Every time they get a pair of boots back, they're amazed at the standard of the work. We pride ourselves on that.

"We more or less make shoes here. We do everything: full leather soles, completely re-strip the

bottom of the shoes off, bag repairs, everything. We take pride in the quality of our work here. You don't get that in bigger shops."

The shop's newly refurbished premises also stock the finest handmade English and Italian leather shoes from specially chosen distributors, alongside leather accessories including handbags, laptop holders, and wallets.

And as a thank you for supporting the local business, for every pair of shoes purchased Rompski's promise to repair a pair of shoes up to the value of £45.

With a sale on selected Barkers and Joseph Cheaney & Sons shoes now on, with possible savings as good as £150, you can be sure to put your best foot forward this Christmas.

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LOCAL CHARITIES

A safe, warm haven

Glass Door partners with churches in west London to provide shelter and support to individuals who would otherwise be sleeping on the street this Christmas.

London's largest emergency winter night shelter provides a safe, warm place to sleep for 85 to 100 men and women a night across the boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, and Wandsworth.

Working in west London since 1996, the charity has been running night shelters for almost 20 years.

"People come to us for a variety of reasons. Some are fleeing abuse or have lost a job, others may have a mental or physical health problem. Some have had a falling out with a family member and have nowhere else to turn," a spokesman for the charity said.

"Every day, someone new walks through our doors, and we try to meet them at their point of need.

"Just today, we met a young man with bipolar disorder who had no choice but to leave his flat when it

became unsafe."

Glass Door's shelters are open throughout the winter, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The charity serves a traditional Christmas lunch, which volunteers and guests share at big communal tables, complete with Christmas pudding and crackers.

"Our guests tell us Christmas can be one of the most difficult times of the year," the spokesman added. "Most public places that might otherwise offer some respite from the cold – such as libraries, museums, and day centres – are closed. On top of that, Christmas can be incredibly lonely when you don't have a home."

"At Glass Door, our volunteers and staff offer everyone who comes to us a bit of kindness and dignity. It's somewhere others know your name, and this can be a lifeline for many.

"The number of people who are



homeless remains constant; it's just the ability of services that fluctuates."

Last month, the charity's annual Sleep Out event at Duke of York Square saw hundreds sleep outside to raise awareness for homelessness, raising more than £150,000.

Find out more about Glass Door at www.glassdoor.org.uk.

Feeding those in need

Westminster Foodbank is providing emergency food support packages for those most in need this Christmas.

Based at Westminster Chapel, the food bank offers three days of nutritionally-balanced food and support to people experiencing redundancy, benefit delay, low income, ill health, domestic abuse, benefit reductions, and debt.

A spokesman for Westminster Foodbank said: "With increased fuel bills due to colder and darker weather, and with continued cuts to benefits, we are seeing more and more people need the help."

"Christmas time brings added stress to everyone but especially to those who access the food bank. Reasons being that they are not able to provide for their family the way they had hoped to, they must use limited funds for bills, and often our clients are living alone and have no family to spend the holidays with."

Run by volunteers at Westminster Chapel with support from the

Tressel Trust, the food bank serves those living in the borough of Westminster. Clients can receive up to nine vouchers a year, although longer-term support is available.

"A specific challenge in this area is the lack of affordable food shops," said the spokesman. "Clients have to choose from M&S, Waitrose, and Sainsbury's. There is no Lidl or Morrisons."

"Westminster is the third worst borough for child poverty. Clients run into problems with school uniforms and feeding their kids. We have had amazing contributions to our storeroom from businesses, schools and churches, but we have had difficulty raising the funds needed to run the Foodbank."

Join Westminster Foodbank for a festive two-course meal and drinks fundraiser at Westminster Chapel, followed by a screening of It's a Wonderful Life at the Curzon Cinema, Victoria, on December 1, 7pm to 10.30pm. Tickets cost £35. Visit westminsterchapel.org.uk.



The Friends Christmas Fair Chelsea & Westminster Hospital Ground Floor, Main Atrium

The Friends, supporting End of Life Care

The Friends of The Chelsea and Westminster Hospital is a voluntary organisation and registered charity, which supports the work of the hospital for the benefit of patients, their families and staff. The Friends work closely with the hospital to supplement and enhance the services provided to patients by the hospital and its own volunteer department.

Our aim is to improve the patient experience, and to achieve this we raise money in a variety of ways including; events, a Friends shop, a Hair Salon and organising traders in the hospital. We make grants within the hospital of between £50,000 and £100,000 per annum, an invaluable contribution at a time of cut backs within the NHS.

Since the middle of this year the Friends grants focus has been on expanding the number of Butterfly Rooms within the hospital as part of the Trust's programme of improving its palliative care. These rooms are dedicated to those patients near the end of life, so that friends and family can spend more time with their loved ones in their last days. The Friends redecorate these side rooms to provide additional comfort and a peaceful environment for patients and their families.

The value of these rooms can be highlighted by comments received recently:

"Our mother spent her last couple of weeks in the newly created Butterfly Room on the David Erskine Ward and we couldn't have asked for anywhere better. She was very comfortable there and for us and the rest of our family, it was a lovely quiet and calm room in which we could spend as much time as we needed to with her to say goodbye. Thank you to everyone involved in the creation of the room"

We have dedicated all our fundraising events to this project this year and hope that you will join us at our Christmas Fair where we will be selling lots of fantastic cakes, gifts, books and so much more on Thursday 8th December at 10am - 2pm. Please visit us on the Ground Floor of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital to support this good cause.

You will find more information on all our events on our Website: www.cwffriends.org.uk



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Capital nights

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon



Anna Meredith

Scala, Camden
Wednesday November 23
 Acclaimed Scottish composer who turned her hand to electronic music on this year's stunning Varmints album. An odd-ball collection of sounds that together form a cacophonous wave, the record is an all-out assault on the ears. Formerly a composer in residence for the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Meredith brings her array of talents to a brand new audience here.



Savages

O2 Academy, Brixton
Friday November 25

London girl band whose ferocious debut caused a fuss when it landed in 2013. Hailed as the flag-bearers for a new wave of feminist punk rock, the band's industrial style is indebted to Warsaw and Siouxsie and the Banshees. Follow-up LP Adore Life impressed earlier this year as Jenny Beth and co continue to carve out anthems galore.



Omar Souleyman

Jazz Café, Camden
Saturday November 26

Probably Syria's most successful musical export, Souleyman began his career as a part-time wedding singer before making a name for himself in the west. Hundreds of studio and live albums have been released under his name over the course of a prolific career - many of which were recorded at weddings and sold on to the happy couples. The singer is celebrating his 50th year with this show at the Jazz Café

Loved and loathed in equal measure, few comedians can claim to split opinion quite as sharply as Stewart Lee.

His stand-up style – delivered in the thinly-veiled guise of an embittered on-stage alter ego – is so heavily loaded with irony and deadpan wit that newcomers often find themselves flummoxed as to whether Lee is cruising or crashing.

Ill-equipped audience members are frequently invited to leave during Lee's routines, sardonically quipping that his material is only fit for the highest calibre of crowd.

So unimpressed was Daily Telegraph critic Dominic Cavendish during a 2013 show in Leicester Square that he got up and walked out halfway through before penning an angry review condemning Lee's "toxic scorn".

But that hasn't halted the London comic's progress – he now collects his bad reviews on his website, and even prints the very worst ones on his tour posters.

"More skilful and playful than ever," proclaims the billboard for his latest tour, Content Provider, before adding in quotes attributed to a national newspaper: "Stewart Lee is not funny and has nothing to say."

Pigeon-holed as a luvvie of the left and enemy of the state, Lee is easy meat for the philistine Twitterati.

"Whoever gave Stewart Lee a series with the word 'comedy' in it should be shot," chortles one.



Friends - White Lies

White Lies at the Empire

IT will something of a homecoming for west London three-piece White Lies when they make their long-awaited appearance at the Shepherd's Bush Empire this week.

Fans have been on hold for three years while the Ealing-based band applied the finishing touches to their fourth album, Friends, which finally hit the shelves in October.

Bass player Charles Cave and drummer Jack Lawrence-Brown formed the band in Pitshanger Village as teenagers, before singer Harry McVeigh, from Shepherd's Bush, joined the fold in 2009.

In their original incarnation as Fear of Flying, the trio supported indie icons The Maccabees, Jamie T and Laura Marling before a rebranding exercise that brought a darker edge to their music.

Seven years on from their eye-catching debut, NME favourites White Lies remain heavily indebted to the ground initially trod by the likes of Joy Division and The Cure.

Older and wiser than in those early days, the band is now carving out a niche of its own.

With a bolder sonic identity comprised of blaring synths, the Londoners are finally hitting their stride.

"I love the variety on the record, it was such fun to make," says McVeigh, who has married and moved away from west London since the band's previous album.

"We've all grown up a great deal I think. The album actually deals with lots of the emotions associated with the changing of relationships with friends and family as you grow up and move on to new things."

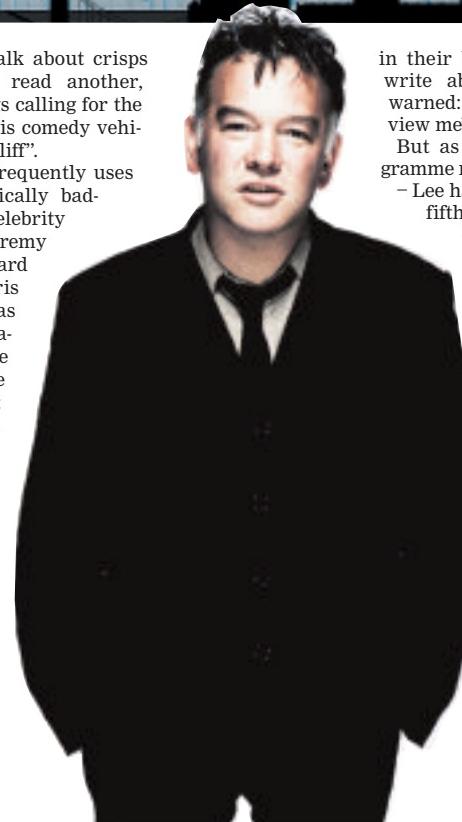
White Lies perform at the O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire today, Tuesday November 22. The new album, Friends, is out now.

"All he did was talk about crisps and stand there," read another, among a slew of gags calling for the stand-up to "drive his comedy vehicle off the side of a cliff".

Biting back, Lee frequently uses his shows to publicly bad-mouth critics and celebrity enemies (notably Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and Chris Moyles), as well as 'popular' observational comics like Michael McIntyre and the Russells: Brand, Howard and Kane.

Along with his rambling, often bizarre Observer columns, he has crafted a persona of sneery liberal intellectualism that has at the same time enraptured his fans and alienated his denigrators.

So, you would think, comedy critics will be quaking



in their boots as they sit down to write about the man who once warned: "No one is equipped to review me".

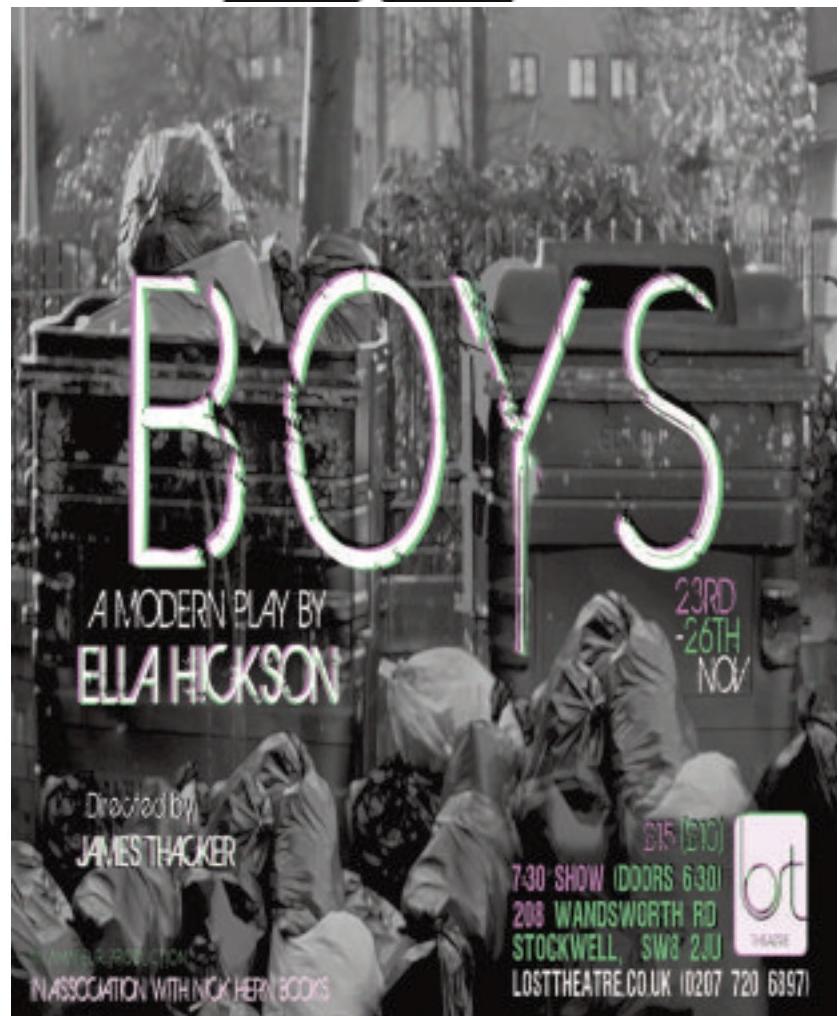
But as his Comedy Vehicle programme reaches its final destination – Lee has ruled out returning for a fifth BBC series – the comedian is heading back to the stage.

Content Provider has been tuned up over months of preparatory touring, testing the water with new material.

It is set to be every bit as biting as his previous stand-up sensations, If You Prefer a Milder Comedian, Please Ask For One, 41st Best Stand Up Ever and Carpet Remnant World.

The tour is coupled with a new book, also titled Content Provider, which pools together columns and comic prose written for the Guardian over the last five years.

Stewart Lee



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Capital nights

Back to the Swingin' Sixties

VIEWERS currently sedated by the tedium of most television can perk up. Next year looks set to be a bumper time for telly, especially for those who revel in all our yesterdays.

2017 marks the 50th birthday of much that was new and exciting and, as there's nothing like an anniversary to provide a hook for a TV documentary, producers and commissioning editors are currently wading through heaps of opportunity to cobble together old footage with comment from those who were there.

Rock and pop stands to get a good shout in the nostalgia fest which is looming as '67 was the year when the sounds all changed.

Besides the anniversary of the seminal Sgt. Pepper, next year marks the 50th of the release of the debut album by the Jimi Hendrix Experience and of the first time that Hendrix hit on the great idea of setting fire to his guitar, a novel experiment at the Astoria which promoted him straight to hospital with severe burns.

Jimi should get quite a look-in in the look back; 1967 was the year when he first achieved huge fame through his appearance at the Monterey Pop Festival.

It's also a year that the Stones won't forget. February of '67 saw Mick Jagger and Keith Richards arrested at Keith's Redlands home near Chichester, sparking the false rumours about Marianne Faithful and what the cops "saw" as they burst in. June then saw Mick and Keith banged up on conviction of possession of drugs, prison sentences that were later thrown out after public outcry was led by The Times' famous leader article, Who Breaks A Butterfly On A Wheel?

1967 was also the year that pirate radio was made illegal, so expect to see who remains of the Radio Caroline jocks trotted out to recall their glory days and, as next year marks the 50th birthday of Radio 1 and 2 as the BBC broke up The Light Programme, there will be all sorts of special programmes to commemorate that.

It was the year when Elvis married Priscilla Beaulieu in Las Vegas, when The Beatles, recovering from the tragedy of the death of their manager Brian Epstein, opened their soon-to-be-disastrous Apple Shop and when 400 million watched the first international live satellite broadcast, Our World, during which the Fab Four launched All You Need Is Love.

It was also the year in which The Beatles premiered their movie Magical Mystery Tour on BBC1, but Apple may well not want to talk about that as the film was panned by both viewers and critics, solely because somewhat-trippy colour films don't tend to work too well

when broadcast in black and white. But nobody much considered such minor production details back then.

There may also be a good behind-the-scenes documentary about Sandie Shaw becoming the first UK singer to win the Eurovision Song Contest, an event which deserves a TV special if only to ascertain how she felt about it, reported afterwards as: "I hated it from the very first oompah to the final bang on the big bass drum. I was instinctively repelled by its sexist drivel and cuckoo-clock twist." Nul points there from Sandie on the song that put her at No 1 in the charts for three weeks.



Sandie Shaw wins the Eurovision Song Contest in 1967 with Puppet on a String

On a more serious front, we can also expect to see 50th anniversary programming about the launch of Concorde, the decriminalisation of male homosexuality, the devaluation of the pound from \$2.80 to a \$2.40 rate that the Bank of England would love to have now, the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.

There will be a lot of memories of the Vietnam War including Muhammed Ali's refusal to fight in it, Harold Wilson announcing the UK's bid to join the EEC and Charles De Gaulle replying bog off, the start of the spaghetti western genre with the premiere of A Fistful Of Dollars, the legalisation of abortion, the capture and execution in Bolivia of Che Guevara which led to a million walls being decorated with posters by teenagers who couldn't point to Bolivia on a map, and also a documentary revisiting the oil spill of the super-tanker Torrey Canyon, a sea life pollution disaster which the RAF dealt with by ecologically blasting it with 1,000-lb bombs, as you did in those good old days coming again to you soon.



**Ball and Boe
TOGETHER
on tour
by
Jack Dixon**

IT'S the kind of combination that will warm the heart of every grandmother in the country.

Ball and Boe are a publicist's dream – big-hearted, self-effacing and utterly adorable, the pair are perfect representatives for musical theatre.

If anything, it's strange to think that the new album Together and its subsequent UK tour is their first formal collaboration.

The two stars first met a decade ago during a performance of Kismet at the London Coliseum in 2006 - and they have grown to become close friends in the years since.

That same year Ball made history by becoming the first musical theatre performer to be given a solo concert at the Royal Albert Hall's BBC Proms event.

It was to be not only a landmark occasion for Ball, but also the start of an exciting new partnership as he invited Boe on stage to sing alongside him at the classical music festival.

Ball, the elder statesman of the duo with a plethora of awards to his name, and Boe, the junior tenor catching up fast on his heels, are a match made in heaven.

But this is certainly not your typical 'master and apprentice' pairing; each is an inspiration to the other.

"It's been my experience that there is only one thing I enjoy more than working with someone whose talent I admire and who constantly challenges themselves to try new

things and keeps getting better, therefore making me work harder and try to be better," says Ball, 54.

"And that is to work with someone who makes me laugh, has my back and is a real friend."

"With Alfie I think I've hit the jackpot. This is going to be such a great experience for us, and hopefully the audiences too."

The instant personal connection between the two singers is reflected in their mutual admiration for each other's professionalism.

On Together, which features a repertoire of classic songs pulled from some of the greatest Broadway shows, the duo finally dish up the compelling collaboration that hundreds of thousands of fans the world over have been waiting 10 years to hear.

For Boe, the experience of recording with one of his lifelong musical heroes has opened his eyes to new possibilities.

"My job provides me with great opportunities and none more so than this," says the 43-year-old Lancashire lad.

"The chance to perform with an artist whose work and talent I've admired for years is such a great honour for me."

A gushing Boe says Ball was the one who paved the way for a future crop of singers to make the leap from the classical stage to musical theatre.

"My philosophy on crossover is more about crossing over the audience than the

music – and Michael proved years ago that this was possible.

"He has inspired so many singers, including myself, to push themselves further in the crossover field and his mainstream appeal in contemporary musical theatre and classical is evident in his history. A great artist, a fabulous singer and a wonderful friend."

Over an extraordinary 30-year career, Ball's string of bracing performances have made box office history.

A double Olivier Award winner, multi-platinum recording artist and top-selling concert performer, as well as a hugely popular radio and television presenter, few among the UK's premier entertainers can match up to Ball.

Yet Boe is coming up fast behind him, having conquered the world's greatest opera stages and arenas, led the cast of Les Misérables and stolen the show at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee concert at Buckingham Palace.

At the end of a month-long tour stopping at many of the UK's top arenas, handkerchief-waving housewives now have only a few days to wait before Ball and Boe arrive in town.

Michael Ball and Alfie Boe will perform at the Eventim Apollo in Hammersmith on December 8. The new album Together is out now.

It's time to dig out your rock'n'roll 'medal'

BBC Radio 6 Music's Wear Your Old Band T-Shirt To Work Day returns for its ninth year on Friday November 25.

Ahead of this year's celebrations Steve Lamacq has launched an exclusive competition inviting listeners to design a band T-shirt for alternative rock pioneers Pixies. The winning design will be worn by the band at their Brixton Academy gigs this month.

The competition is now open and will run until 6pm on Wednesday November 23.

Designs can be submitted via email to lamacq.6music@bbc.co.uk and a shortlist will be selected by Steve Lamacq and his 6 Music team.

From this, the winning design will be chosen by Pixies and announced on T-



Kate Moss in her Beastie Boys T-shirt

Shirt Day. For full details go to bbc.co.uk/6music.

Steve said: "T-Shirt Day has become a special moment in the 6 Music year. It's a chance to flaunt our old shirts and share the stories that surround them.

"In some ways they're like rock'n'roll medals, worn to mark all those crazy, brilliant nights out we've had, or the

bands we've fallen in love with and followed.

"And rather than let the shirts sit idle and neglected in a drawer or a box in the loft, T-Shirt Day gives everyone an excuse to dig them out and wear them to work.

"Last year was the biggest T-Shirt Day yet, with thousands of listeners getting involved and sending us pictures of the shirts they were

wearing. And once again, we're going to be throwing out the playlist for the day and playing nothing but music by the artists who appear on their shirts."

Last year, famous faces including Kate Moss, Simon Pegg, Debbie Harry, AC/DC and Pete Townshend took part in the day sharing images of themselves wearing their most coveted band T-shirt.

FREE SEMINAR

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6.30pm - 8.30pm

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Wine&dine

'Cooking with kids can be hell'



London chef Marcus Wareing has written a new cookbook that mere mortals can follow at home

MARCUS Wareing is a serious chef. Whether you've watched him on MasterChef, Great British Menu, or in one of his three restaurants at The Berkeley, St Pancras Renaissance Hotel or in Seven Dials, it's a word you'd definitely use to describe him. And he wouldn't disagree.

"I am serious," says the 46-year-old. "I'm serious because I need to take my job seriously, and because there is a lot at stake. I take everything I do seriously, but I also now enjoy a lot more and am a little more open-minded."

It's perhaps this new, (slightly) more relaxed persona that has brought about his latest release, Marcus At Home, which is fit to burst with recipes that very normal folk can try their hand at. And it's all been inspired by family cooking.

"I love watching my family enjoy food that we've made together and my wife makes a brilliant lasagne," says the father-of-three, who's married to Jane, 45. "I think now, because the children are more aware of food and are trying more, we as a family are starting to diverge into bigger flavours, spicier food, and just a lot more variety. The kids are not so young any more - they love their food and are growing up. It's really challenged me



to do something I've never done before, which is focus on food at home."

Wareing - who describes himself as "driven, precise and friendly" - is a lot more easygoing than you might imagine. He's perfectly polished (his shirt is impeccably ironed and his beard is as neatly shaved as you'd expect his Parmesan to be), but calm and keen to put me at ease.

"When I think of 'home', it's all about the kitchen, the family, laughing and arguing," says the chef, who hails from Southport, but now resides in Wimbledon (he recommends a deli there called Bayley And Sage, if you're ever in the area, for the "best fresh fruit and produce").

And now the kids are growing up, cooking together is something that's happening more often.

"It can be hell at times, but it is mostly fun," he says, eyes twinkling and a smile spreading across his face. "What annoys me about cooking with children - even though I do love it - is the mess. Jess always wants to cook cakes, Archie will get involved in cookery with his mum and he makes a mean salad sandwich. But Jake is all about fry-ups, and he hates cleaning up."

Don't we all? Though I can imagine this is one Michelin-starred chef who won't stand for anyone not clearing up after themselves, even if they are his children.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Braised lamb hearts with alliums



MY gran used to make these once a week with a simple parsley and thyme stuffing. I always used to look forward to the hearts coming out of the oven and regarded it as a bit of a treat.

4 large lambs' hearts, trimmed of any sinew or excess fat
Flour for dusting
Vegetable oil for frying
8 cocktail sticks
For the sauce
1 medium onion, peeled, halved and finely chopped
A good knob of butter
1tbsp plain flour
1/2tsp tomato purée
100ml red wine
400ml beef stock, or a good quality stock cube dissolved in that amount of water
1 bay leaf

For the stuffing
1 onion peeled and roughly chopped
1tsp fresh thyme leaves
A good knob of butter
60g fresh white breadcrumbs
1 large red onion, left whole
6 spring onions, trimmed and halved
A good knob of butter
For the onion purée
2 medium onions, peeled, halved and roughly chopped
500ml chicken stock
2tbsp double cream

Preheat the oven to 175C/gas mark 4. First make the sauce. Melt the butter in a thick-bottomed pan and gently cook the onion for 2-3 minutes until lightly coloured. Add the flour and tomato purée and stir well over a low heat for a minute. Gradually add the red wine, stirring to prevent lumps forming, and gradually add the beef stock. Bring to the boil, add bay leaf and simmer gently for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, make the stuffing. Gently cook the onion and thyme in the butter for a minute to soften them, then stir in the breadcrumbs and season. Insert the point of a small knife into the cavity of the heart and remove any sinews, allowing room for the stuffing. Force as much stuffing into the cavity as possible and secure with a cocktail stick. Season and lightly flour the hearts. Heat a tablespoon or so of vegetable oil in a frying pan and lightly brown the hearts, turning them so that they are evenly coloured.

Put the hearts into a casserole dish with a lid and cook in the oven for 1½ hours, turning them every so often. Put the whole red onion into the oven at the same time and bake it for about an hour or until soft, leave to cool. Quarter and separate the leaves and put to one side in a saucepan with a knob of butter and the spring onions.

While the hearts are cooking make the onion purée. Put the onions in a saucepan with the chicken stock, season and simmer for about 30-40 minutes until the onions are soft and the liquid has almost evaporated; add the cream and simmer until the liquid is just coating the onions. Blend in a liquidiser or Nutri-bullet until smooth and return to the pan. Simmer until the purée is really thick, remove from the heat and keep warm.

The sauce for the hearts should be a thick, coating consistency; if not, transfer the sauce to a pan and simmer it until it's thick.

To serve, heat the onions and spring onions in the pan with a tablespoon of water for 2-3 minutes until the spring onions are tender.



Fancy a foodie advent calendar?

• **Paul Advent Calendar, £19.95, plus delivery.**
This gorgeously decorative Advent calendar is filled with 24 praline and salted caramel bon bons, and can be reused year after year.



• **Hotel Chocolat The Advent Calendar - Caramel, £12.50**
New to Hotel Chocolat's Advent calendar line-up this year is the Caramel option, containing 24 deliciously malty, not-too-sweet caramel chocolates. Every one tastes divine!

• **Biscuiteers Christmas Circus Advent Biscuit Tin, £48** It is pricey, but if you have a reusable Advent calendar that needs filling with treats, this tin of 24 beautifully iced biscuits will look delightful peeking out of each pocket.



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Talk of the town

Sheena Easton – the Grammy Award winning artist who has sold over 20 million records around the world – is to make her West End debut in the forthcoming production of *42nd Street*, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Easton, who remains the only artist in history to have top five records on five major Billboard charts, will perform the iconic role of Dorothy Brock in this new production of *42nd Street*, the dazzling and romantic homage to the world of musical theatre.

The role of Julian Marsh will be performed by Tom Lister, who played Carl King in *Emmerdale* for eight years and has recently been starring as Wild Bill Hickok in the UK tour of *Calamity Jane*. Clare Halse, who most recently appeared in the acclaimed production of *Gypsy* as Marjorie May at the Savoy Theatre, will play Peggy Sawyer.

The production will be directed by the show's co-author Mark Bramble (whose other hit shows include *Baron*, *Treasure Island* and *The Three Musketeers* *The Grand*



Tour) and director of many award-winning previous productions of *42nd Street* on Broadway and around the world.

42nd Street is the song and dance, American dream fable of Broadway and includes some of the greatest songs ever written, such as *We're In The Money*, *Lullaby of Broadway*, *Shuffle Off To Buffalo*, *Dames, I Only Have Eyes For You* and *42nd Street*.

42nd Street arrives in London with an all-singing, high-kicking cast of over 50, ready to explode on to the West End's biggest stage. The confirmed cast are: Jasna Ivir, who will play Maggie Jones, Norman Bowman as Pat Denning, Stuart Neal as Billy Lawlor, Graeme Henderson as Andy Lee, Christopher Howell as Bert Barry, Bruce Montague as Abner Dillon, Mark McKerracher as Mac/Doc/Thug and Emma Caffrey as Annie.

The ensemble comprise Clare Rickard, Victoria Hay, Leah Harris, Jasmine Kerr,

Sheena Easton, who remains the only artist in history to have top five records on five major Billboard charts, will perform the iconic role of Dorothy Brock in a new production of *42nd Street*

Millie O'Connell, Katy Riches, Gabrielle Lewis Dodson, Daisy Steere, Karli Vale, Sophie Camble, Christina Shand, Courtney George, Zoe Rogers, Jessica Keable, Sara Bispham, Lisa Dent, Katharine Pearson, Kirsty Fuller, Rebecca Herszenhorn, Charlene Ford, Dylan Mason, Philip Bertoli, Luke George, Ronan Burns, Eddie Myles, Ryan Gover, Sam Murphy.

42nd Street will open at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane on Monday 20 March 2017. If you would like further information, you can visit the website www.42ndStreetMusical.co.uk

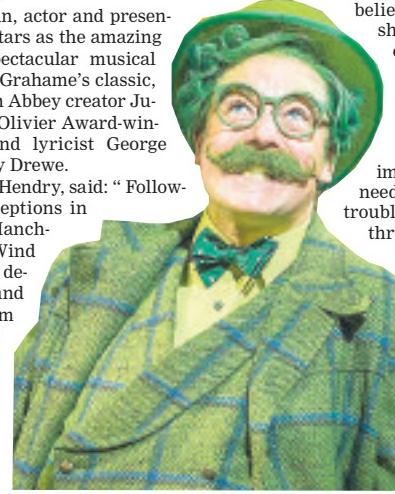
Toad turns up in the West End

FOLLOWING a highly acclaimed pre-West End engagement, producer Jamie Hendry has announced that the major new musical *The Wind In The Willows* will open in the West End at the London Palladium.

Leading comedian, actor and presenter Rufus Hound stars as the amazing Mr Toad in this spectacular musical based on Kenneth Grahame's classic, reuniting *Downton Abbey* creator Julian Fellowes and Olivier Award-winning composer and lyricist George Stiles and Anthony Drewe.

Producer, Jamie Hendry, said: "Following wonderful receptions in Plymouth and Manchester where *The Wind In The Willows* has delighted adults and children alike, I'm thrilled that a wider audience will be able to share in the joy of this glorious new musical at the London Palladium."

Hendry confirmed



Rufus Hound as the glorious Mr Toad

that he would be continuing his pledge to provide readers of all ages the opportunity to enjoy *The Wind In The Willows* by sending free copies of Kenneth Grahame's novel to every school and library in London. He added: "I am a firm believer that our most classic novels should be freely available for everyone to enjoy. I hope that readers will fall in love with Grahame's story as much as I did, which ultimately led to the commissioning of this musical."

The riotous comedy follows the impulsive Mr Toad whose insatiable need for speed lands him in serious trouble. With his beloved home under threat from the notorious Chief Weasel and his gang of sinister Wild Wooders, Toad must attempt a daring escape leading to a series of misadventures and a heroic battle to recapture Toad Hall.

The Wind in the Willows will start previewing at the London Palladium from June 17, 2017. If you would like any further details, you can visit the website www.windinthewillowsthemusical.com

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Talk of the town



Dancer Joanne Clifton takes on the title role

Thoroughly Modern Millie

AWARD winning musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is set to tour the UK in 2017 opening at New Wimbledon Theatre on Tuesday, January 17.

Michelle Collins will join the cast of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* until Saturday, March 4 as Mrs Meers. She has worked extensively in television and theatre for the last 30 years and is perhaps best known for her roles as Cindy Beale in *EastEnders* and Stella Price in *Coronation Street*.

Strictly Come Dancing favourite and World Ballroom Showdance Champion Joanne Clifton takes on the title role of Millie Dillmount, a Kansas girl determined to make it big in New York City.

Winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is based on the 1967 Academy Award-winning film.

The musical takes the audience back to the height of the Jazz Age in 1920s New York City, when 'moderns' including a flapper named Millie Dillmount were bobbing their hair, raising their hemlines, entering the workforce and rewriting the rules of love.

From explosive tap numbers to a 'Fred and Ginger' dance routine on a window ledge, and featuring hit songs including Gimme Gimme, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and Not for the Life of Me, this is a brilliantly funny and entertaining show for all the family.

Tickets for *Thoroughly Modern Millie*
are on sale now - atgtickets.co

JM Barrie's classic tale is set to take flight again on the South Bank this winter, when Peter Pan and his band of lost boys soar into the National Theatre.

The magical story has been adapted by Sally Cookson into a wonderfully inventive piece which, after a sell-out run at the Bristol Old Vic, is likely to be one of London's hot tickets this Christmas, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

The much-loved tale follows 'the boy who wouldn't grow up' - a regular visitor to London - who flies from his magical world to listen to the exciting adventure stories, told by the headstrong pre-teen, Wendy Darling.

After mislaying his shadow in the Darling's house, Wendy helps Peter to reattach it and is in return invited to journey to the mystical Neverland where Tinker Bell the fairy, Tiger Lily and the vengeful Captain Hook await.

The show stars Anna Francolini as both the wicked Captain Hook and as Mrs Darling, alongside Saikat Ahamed, Suzanne Ahmet, Marc Antolin, Laura Cubitt, Phoebe Fildes, Felix Hayes, Paul Hilton, John Leader, Amaka Okafor, John Pumojena, Jessica Temple, Dan Wheeler, Madeleine Worrall and Lois Chimimba as Princess Tiger Lily.

Lois took some time out of rehearsals to tell me about the production and its enchantingly different take on the fable.

Lois said: "The show was devised originally by the company at the Bristol Old Vic, but we've reinvented quite a lot with this new company. We've tried to keep as much of the original material from the book, the short stories and the play as we can, but it has also been shaped around the actors and the musicians. It's not too far away from the original story, but it's got some fresher elements added."

Lois plays Tiger Lily, who is the princess of the Piccaninnny Tribe of Native Americans. Although she is old enough to marry, she refuses any suitors because she desires Peter



Pan. The character only appears briefly within the original story, but her envy of Wendy is well documented.

"In the book there's not much information on her. She's somewhat passive in the story and is just a young girl who fancies Peter. We've tried to update the character a bit, so she's feistier and more independent."

The high flying and inventive production features elevated circus style routines and allows the audience to gain a very different insight into the workings of the show, with all of the rigs, pulleys and flying equipment on display. Lois took trapeze lessons prior to rehearsals to help build up the core stamina needed to perform the intricate aerial acrobatics each night.

She said: "There's so much flying and jumping. We have the counter weighters onstage with us, so you're able to see how it all works and it makes it special that you can see all of the mechanics."

"We learned how to climb ropes and swing and bungee, so it's been really good fun as much as it's been super tiring."

Peter Pan also features music, which has been devised and adapted especially for the production at the National Theatre by Benji Bower. With exhilarating stunts coupled with the timeless fairy story, the production promises to be a treat for the whole family.

Lois said: "You must come and see this show, because it's full of heart, mischief and madness and it will be a Peter Pan like you've never seen before."

Peter Pan opens at the Olivier Theatre, within the National Theatre on the December 2 and runs until February 4 2017. There will also be a relaxed performance on Sunday, January 21 at 2pm. If you would like any further details you can visit the website nationaltheatre.org.uk

A
PETER PAN
like you've
never seen
before

Lois Chimimba
plays Tiger Lily

'An epic piece of theatre in every sense of the word'

King Lear-The Old Vic Review

★★★

I'M well known for my extremely short attention span, so the prospect of a three-and-a-half hour performance of one of Shakespeare's complicated tales filled me with a sense of foreboding.

I'm pleased to say however, my fears of taking an embarrassing impromptu nap, were unfounded, as I was completely enthralled by a magnificent presentation of the Bard's classic, with some simply majestic performances, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Leading the cast with a formidable

presence, which belies her physical stature, is former MP Glenda Jackson as the misguided King, who sets to bequeath his land to his trio of daughters.

Twenty-five years after she gave up acting in favour of a political career, the actress shows no signs of theatrical rust and instead provides a performance of such high calibre, you genuinely feel as if you are witnessing a historical event.

Some of the scholar's text is infinitely relatable to her former parliamentary career with the line: "Get thee glass eyes and like a scurvy politician seem to see the things thou

dost not," met with titters from the audience.

The double Oscar winner elegantly portrays a downward spiral into despair, while taking on an androgynous persona, which never feels inappropriate.

This is a highly sexed production, with mooning a plenty and a general celebration of debauchery. Jane Horrocks dressed in a leather jacket and skinny jeans depicts a lusty Regan, while Celia Imrie provides a prim and pompous antidote with her Goneril. Rhys Ifans is a fulsome and frivolous distraction as the fool, while Harry Melling and Simon Mayonda are

equally appealing as Gloucester's undesired sons.

There is real artistry to Deborah Warner's direction, with the stark modern minimal set, allowing an almost cubist shape to be produced by the actors at times, which results in a visual feast.

This is an epic piece of theatre in every sense of the word, a production worthy of acclaim, which I'm sure we will be talking about for years to come.

King Lear is running at The Old Vic until 3rd December. If you would like any further details, you can visit the website oldvictheatre.com



Glenda Jackson plays King Lear

Talk of the town

NO FIT State Circus is celebrating 30 years of death defying daredevil performances and is, once again set to thrill audiences on the South Bank with their new Bianco show for the Christmas season, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The company is hugely adept at mixing both traditional and contemporary circus techniques to make a uniquely exciting and exhilarating theatrical experience for the hoards of guests, who enter their specially designed big top. The group even live together as a community for the duration of their performances, which means they reside in caravans dotted around the central staging area; a feat of bravery itself, when you consider the temperatures they must endure on South Bank during the winter.

Ariel performer, Ed Casey tells me what makes this circus company and their silver spaceship-like tent, so different.

"The big silver tent takes a lot longer to put up than a traditional circus tent, because the structure, with the pole and the big metal frame which goes around the top, is much heavier and can take more weight and more pressure. It means we can do counterweighting with pulleys and ropes and the tent allows for that kind of action," Ed said.

"Bianco's very exciting to be in, because the contemporary nature of it really pushes you artistically to try new things."

Ed comes from a theatrical background and discovered his love of acrobatics and hanging upside down while studying European Theatre

in Estonia. He said the bond between the performers becomes immeasurably strong when living and working together.

"It's such a different way of working compared to other theatre shows," Ed said.

"You get to a whole new level of community and you get to know each other really well. We train together during the day and that's really quite exciting because it means we can create together too."

Bianco combines elements of dance, live music, stage design, text and film with traditional circus skills and is performed behind and all around a standing audience with a dreamlike narrative.

NoFit State is the UK's leading large scale contemporary circus company and their Bianco production promises a two-hour roller-coaster ride of heart in your mouth circus and physical theatre with untamed elegance and a subversive edge.

Bianco will be performed as part of the South Bank Centre Winter Festival from Wednesday, November 23 to Sunday, January 22, visit the website nofitstate.org

Heart in
your mouth
circus with
elegance and
a subversive
edge



Not quite hitting the funnybone

Dead Funny
Vaudeville Theatre ★★★

A BIT of comedy is just what we all need at the moment so the return of Terry Johnson's 1994 classic play Dead Funny is a welcome addition to the London theatre scene. With an all-star cast providing the waggish patter and direction by the playwright himself, this chortle fest should tickle even the sorest puss. But levels of humour are hard to quantify and this just didn't quite reach my funnybone, writes Nicky Sweetland.

We are invited to join Richard, a seemingly innocuous and staid obstetrician, who spends much of his spare time alongside other disciples of mirth, worshipping the likes of Benny Hill and Tommy Cooper in their Dead Funny society.

This comic devotion is to the detriment of his relationship with wife Eleanor; whose gin induced sarcastic malaise echoed my disillusionment at the guffawing audience around me.

There is something comforting about recreating former fun, and the nostalgia of these comedy greats forms the backbone of the show. I'll admit, the audience of mainly more mature theatregoers tittered and snickered along with the



The cast of *Dead Funny* at the Vaudeville Theatre

jokes and I suppose, in ten years time, people will look back with the same type of fondness at Mrs Brown's Boys, but similarly, if you haven't found something funny the first time around, it's unlikely to tickle you on a second attempt.

The performances are easily appreciated however, and apart from the dialogue feeling a tad rushed at the start, the jokes are delivered in perfect pastiche by both Ralph Little and Rufus Jones, while Steve Pemberton is the textbook butt of the gags, with his tragic portrayal of singleton Brian.

It's Katherine Parkinson who really steals the show

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KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) RED ROUTE CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC
ORDER 2008 A3220 GLA ROAD (HOLLAND ROAD) VARIATION
ORDER 2016

THE GLA ROAD AND SIDE ROADS (LAMBETH) RED ROUTE
CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2007 A3036 GLA ROAD (ALBERT
EMBANKMENT) VARIATION ORDER 2016

THE GLA ROADS AND GLA SIDE ROADS (SOUTHWARK) RED ROUTE
CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2007 A3200 GLA ROAD
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1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that on 15 November 2016 it made the above named Order, under section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will come into force on 23 November 2016.
2. The general nature and effect of the Orders will be to:
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4. A copy of the Order, a statement of Transport for London's reasons for the proposals, a map indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Order revoked, suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:

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5. Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that they are not within the relevant powers conferred by the Act or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order is made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated this 22nd day of November 2016

Mufi Duwoju

Network Impact Management Team Manager
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
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Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

45 Sandilands Road London SW6 2BD 2016/04852/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; demolition and re-building of the single storey back addition; erection of new metal railings at the front of the property.

Thames Wharf Rainville Road London W6 9HA 2016/04874/FUL

Temporary change of use of part of the existing ground floor from offices (Use Class B1) to restaurant / cafe (Use Class A3) and provision of external seating.

32 Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7PJ 2016/04777/FUL

Replacement of existing softwood windows to all elevations of the property (32 Shepherd's Bush Road) with new double glazed PVCu windows; replacement of existing doors with new doors to the side and rear elevation of the building.

Eridge House Fulham Park Road London SW6 4LJ 2016/04959/TPO

Fell to ground level of a Tree of Heaven tree (T6), subject to Tree Preservation Order TPO/300/9/01.

15 Henchman Street London W12 0BW 2016/04091/FUL

Excavation of the rear garden and under the footprint of building to form side and rear lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

Flat First Floor 4 Broomhouse Road London SW6 3QX 2016/04636/FUL

Replace existing single glazed timber windows with new timber double glazed windows to all elevations at first floor level.

19 Niton Street London SW6 6NH 2016/04841/FUL

Material amendment to planning permission reference: 2016/01004/FUL granted 9th May 2016 for the "erection of a rear roof extension to replace existing; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement." Amendments to include an increase in the size of the approved lightwell in the front garden with the addition of 2no. further windows in the front elevation at basement level, and an increase in the size of the grill covering the lightwell.

173 New King's Road London SW6 4SW 2016/04861/FUL

Erection of a single storey back addition with raised roof 1.4m higher than the existing single storey structure, following the demolition of the single storey rear back addition, including the excavation of the side yard area to form 3no. lightwells for the creation of a new basement; change of use from Class A1 to Class C3 of the single storey back addition with mezzanine floor and basement to use as a two bedroom self-contained flat; alterations to the side boundary wall (Amended description)

73 Studdridge Street London SW6 3TD 2016/04911/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

75 Studdridge Street London SW6 3TD 2016/04912/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the

Amigos 120 Uxbridge Road London W12 8AA 2016/04887/FUL

Installation of new duct/extraction ventilation system above the flat roof of back addition and ducting to be attached to the rear wall of the main building following the removal of existing duct/ventilation system.

129 - 131 King Street London W6 9JG 2016/04962/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats, formation of roof terraces at second floor level to the rear of the property; green roofing and erection of guarding rails above the flat roof of first floor rear back addition.

Maisonette B 28 Oxberry Avenue London SW6 5SS 2016/04760/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of railings around flat roof at second floor level in connection with its use as a terrace.

2 Stronsa Road London W12 9LB 2016/04840/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition.

The Curtains Up 28A Comeragh Road London W14 9HR 2016/04965/FUL

Use of part of the pavement (fronting Comeragh Road) as an outside seating area comprising of 8 chairs and 4 tables, in connection with the existing Public House between the hours of 08:00 and 20:00.

Kingdom Hall 1A Poplar Grove London W6 7RF 2016/04980/FUL

Installation of an air conditioning unit above the roof of back addition to first floor flat; installation of 2no ventilation grilles at the side of the pitched roof of back addition; installation of an access hatch and associated pipe works at roof level.

57 Quarrendon Street London SW6 3ST 2016/04904/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition, following the demolition of the existing single storey glazed conservatory;

excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

18 Brading Terrace London W12 8ES 2016/04815/FUL

Erection of a part one part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level to the side and rear of the main property.

16 Cambridge Grove London W6 0LA 2016/04658/FUL

Erection of a part one part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level; installation of a rooflight in the rear elevation at second floor level;

replacement of a window in the rear elevation at first floor level with French doors and a Juliet balcony on the rear elevation at first floor level to replace existing window.

Fulham Cross School Munster Road London SW6 6BP 2016/04694/FUL

Replacement of set of manually operated metal entrance gates and two sections of fencing on Munster Road with a new set of electronically operated gates and fence sections; relocation of one of the existing gate to form a secure bicycle enclosure within the school grounds.

73 Studdridge Street London SW6 3TD 2016/04911/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

75 Studdridge Street London SW6 3TD 2016/04912/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the

existing back addition; Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

Flat C 177 Hammersmith Grove London W6 0NL 2016/04913/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at first and second floor level; formation of a roof terrace at third floor level to the rear elevation; installation of a new dormer comprising of 2no windows and a door to replace the existing dormer window in the rear roof slope; installation of 1no window at first and second floor level to the side elevation.

309 - 311 North End Road London W14 9NS 2016/04914/ADV

Display of an externally illuminated advertisement banner onto a scaffold to the front elevation measuring 7.5m (height) x 11m (width) for a temporary period from 1st February 2017 until 31st December 2017.

68 Emlyn Road London W12 9TD 2016/04925/VAR

Variation of condition 4 of planning permission ref: 2016/02488/FUL granted 22nd July 2016 to allow the use of clay tiles in both pitched roof and rear dormer [amended description].

220 Uxbridge Road London W12 7JD 2016/04472/FUL

Change of use of the ground floor from a pawnbrokers (Class A1/A2) into a restaurant (Class A3/A5); installation of a new shopfront; installation of an external extraction flue on the rear elevation from the flat roof of the ground floor back addition extending up 1000mm past the residential window at first floor level.

41 Novello Street London SW6 4JB 2016/04915/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level on top of existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

18 Brading Terrace London W12 8ES 2016/04815/FUL

Erection of a part one part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level to the side and rear of the main property.

16 Cambridge Grove London W6 0LA 2016/04658/FUL

Erection of a part one part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level; installation of a rooflight in the rear elevation at second floor level;

replacement of a window in the rear elevation at first floor level with French doors and a Juliet balcony on the rear elevation at first floor level to replace existing window.

58 Harwood Road London SW6 4PZ 2016/04387/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at second and third floor level, on top of the existing back addition;

formation of roof terraces at third floor level, to the front and rear elevation.

The Grampians Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7LN 2016/04801/FUL

Replacement of 7no. northlights to the rear main flat roof; provision of a short section of safety balustrade above parapet level to the north elevation to the rear main flat roof.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT

(DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

152 The Grampians Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7LN 2016/04499/LBC

Retention for the infilling of an internal wall in between bedroom and reception room.

Fulham Cross School Munster Road London SW6 6BP 2016/04695/LBC

Replacement of set of manually operated metal entrance gates and two sections of fencing on Munster Road with a new set of electronically operated gates and fence sections; relocation of one of the existing gate to form a secure bicycle enclosure within the school grounds.

Clockwork Building 45 Beaver Lane London W6 9AR 2016/04609/FUL

Erection of a 1100mm high glazed balustrade around the existing flat roof on the western elevation at fifth floor level, in connection with the creation of a roof terrace.

Clockwork Building 45 Beaver Lane London W6 9AR 2016/04611/FUL

Erection of a 1100mm high glazed balustrade around the existing flat roof on the western elevation at fourth floor level, in connection with the creation of a roof terrace.

9 Grosvenor Court 23 Irving Road London W14 0JU 2016/04928/FUL

Replacement of 3no existing single glazed windows with new double glazed windows at first floor level to the front elevation.

42 Novello Street London SW6 4JB 2016/04929/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of rear extensions at ground, first and second floor level; excavation under part of the main building in connection with the creation of a new basement.

38 Blythe Road London W14 OH 2016/04797/FUL

Change of use of the ground floor and basement from a launderette (Use Class Sui Generis) to a part office use (Class A2) at front ground floor level and part residential use (Class C1) with a one bedroom self-contained flat at rear ground floor level and a two bedroom self-contained flat at basement level; alterations to the front elevation to include the replacement of the shopfront at ground floor level with windows and a relocated entrance door;

reinstatement of the front lightwell to include installation of 2no. new windows and a door at basement level to the front elevation;

erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level; erection of metal railings at ground floor level to the front elevation;

replacement of existing window with a door and installation of a new French door at basement level to the rear elevation.

57 Quarrendon Street London SW6 3ST 2016/04951/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition, following the demolition of the existing single storey glazed conservatory;

excavation of the front garden and the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; and installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony on the rear elevation at first floor level to replace existing window.

58 Harwood Road London SW6 4PZ 2016/04387/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at second and third floor level, on top of the existing back addition;

formation of roof terraces at third floor level, to the front and rear elevation.

The Grampians Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7LN 2016/04801/FUL

Replacement of 7no. northlights to the rear main flat roof; provision of a short section of safety balustrade above parapet level to the north elevation to the rear main flat roof.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

22 Haldane Road London SW6 7EU 2016/04875/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level.

38 Blythe Road London W14 OHA 2016/04797/FUL

Change of use of the ground floor and basement from a launderette (Use Class Sui Generis) to a part office use (Class A2) at front ground floor level and part residential use (Class C1) with a one bedroom self-contained flat at rear ground floor level and a two bedroom self-contained flat at basement level; alterations to the front elevation to include the replacement of the shopfront at ground floor level with windows and a relocated entrance door;

reinstatement of the front lightwell to include installation of 2no. new windows and a door at basement level to the front elevation;

erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level; erection of metal railings at ground floor level to the front elevation;

replacement of existing window with a door and installation of a new French door at basement level to the rear elevation.

57 Quarrendon Street London SW6 3ST 2016/04951/FUL

Erection of a front and rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition, following the demolition of the existing single storey glazed conservatory;

excavation of the front garden and the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; and installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony on the rear elevation at first floor level to replace existing window.

58 Harwood Road London SW6 4PZ 2016/04387/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at second and third floor level, on top of the existing back addition;

formation of roof terraces at third floor level, to the front and rear elevation.

The Grampians Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7LN 2016/04801/FUL

Replacement of 7no. northlights to the rear main flat roof; provision of a short section of safety balustrade above parapet level to the north elevation to the rear main flat roof.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT

(DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

152 The Grampians Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7LN 2016/04499/LBC

Replacement of set of manually operated metal entrance gates and two sections of fencing on Munster Road with a new set of electronically operated gates and fence sections; relocation of one of the existing gate to form a secure bicycle enclosure within the school grounds.

Clockwork Building 45 Beaver Lane London W6 9AR 2016/04611/FUL

Erection of a 1100mm high glazed balustrade around the existing flat roof on the western elevation at fifth floor level, in connection with the creation of a roof terrace.

Clockwork Building 45 Beaver Lane London W6 9AR 2016/04611/FUL

Erection of a 1100mm high glazed balustrade around the existing flat roof on the western elevation at fourth floor level, in connection with the creation of a roof terrace.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

863 - 865 Harrow Road London NW10 5NG 2016/04112/FUL

I give notice that Mr Bill Stevenson is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a single storey plus-basement dwellinghouse at the rear of 863-865 Harrow Road (Revised drawings).

811, 813 And 815 Harrow Road London NW10 5NJ 2016/04029/FUL

I give notice that Mr Gavin Essex is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a rear roof extension in connection with the conversion of property from 2 x 1 bedroom flats to 3 x 1 bedroom self-contained flats and 1 x 2 bedroom self-contained flat; use of the front part of the ground floor for bike and bin storage and communal access for the residential units.

30 Davisville Road London W12 9SJ 2016/04644/FUL

I give notice that Mr Chambers is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a two storey rear extension at second and third floor level;

erection of a part one, part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the extended back addition; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roof slope and 1no rooflight in the rear roof slope; formation of a cycle parking and refuse storage at the front of the building; conversion of ground, first, second and third floor level to provide 2 x one bedroom and 2 x two bedroom self-contained flats.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 13th December 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbf.gov.uk You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on 020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

863 - 865 Harrow Road London NW10 5NG 2016/04112/FUL

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A3211 GLA ROAD (VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, CITY OF LONDON) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

- I. Transport for London having consulted the City of London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1), (5), (7) and 15(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and is satisfied that these works will last in excess of 18 months for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
2. The purpose of the Order is to enable Thames Tideway construction works to take place at A3211 Victoria Embankment.
3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any:
 - (1) vehicle from entering, exiting or proceeding on the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street;
 - (2) vehicle from entering, exiting or proceeding or in the gap in the teardrop traffic island separating the northbound and southbound carriageways of the A201 New Bridge Street situated between a point 4 metres north of the extended northern kerb-line of Blackfriars passage and a point opposite the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street;
 - (3) vehicle from entering, exiting or proceeding on bi-directional cycle track on the A3211 Victoria Embankment southern slip road and the southern side of the A3211 Victoria Embankment between its junction with the A201 New Bridge Street and a point opposite the extended eastern kerb-line of Temple Avenue;
 - (4) vehicle, except pedal cycles, from entering, exiting, proceeding or stopping on the temporary bi-directional cycle track at the northern side of the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street between its junctions with the A201 New Bridge Street and the extended eastern kerb-line of Temple Avenue;
 - (5) any pedal cycle proceeding in an easterly direction on the temporary bi-directional cycle track at the northern side of the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street between its junctions with the A201 New Bridge Street and the extended eastern kerb-line of Temple Avenue upon reaching its junction with New Bridge Street from proceeding in any direction except left onto the bi-directional cycle track on the A201 New Bridge Street towards Ludgate Hill or right onto the bi-directional cycle track on the A201 New Bridge Street towards Blackfriars Bridge;
 - (6) vehicle from proceeding in any direction other than eastwards on the main traffic carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street;
 - (7) pedestrian from entering, exiting or proceeding on the footway at the southern side of the A3211 Victoria Embankment southern slip road and the A3211 Victoria Embankment between its junction with the A201 New Bridge Street and a point opposite the extended eastern kerb-line of Temple Avenue.

The Order also:

- (8) permits pedal cycles to turn left or right from the bi-directional cycle track at the western side of the A201 New Bridge Street into the temporary bi-directional cycle track at the northern side of the A3211 Victoria Embankment northern slip-road connecting the eastbound carriageway of the A3211 Victoria Embankment with the A201 New Bridge Street;
 - (9) suspends the one way operation on Carmelite Street between its junctions with Tallis Street and the Victoria Embankment northern slip road permitting two way operation.
- The Order will be effective at certain times from 12:01 AM on 2nd January 2017 until the works have been completed. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
 5. At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via (**for when the northern slip-road is one way eastbound or closed**) (**for southbound traffic on New Bridge Street**) Fleet Street, Strand, Arundel Street and Temple Place to normal route of travel, (**for northbound traffic on Blackfriars Road**) Stamford Street, Waterloo Road, Waterloo Bridge, Lancaster Place, Aldwych. Arundel Place and Temple Place to normal route of travel, or Stamford Street, York Road, Westminster Bridge Road, Westminster Bridge, Victoria Embankment, and Temple Place to normal route of travel, (when the slip road is closed) (**for eastbound traffic on Victoria Embankment**) (**when the slip road is closed**) Blackfriars Underpass, Puddle Dock and Queen Victoria Street to normal route of travel. (**for traffic on Carmelite Street**) Tallis Street, John Carpenter Street, Tudor Street, New Bridge Street, Fleet Street, Strand, Arundel Street and Temple Place to normal route of travel (**for the closure of the southern slip-road**) (**for cycles**) use the northern slip road to normal route of travel, (**for pedestrians**) the pedestrian crossing to the eastern footway of New Bridge Street, to the pedestrian crossing north of Blackfriars Passage to the westbound footway of New Bridge Street, the footway on the northern slip-road and the pedestrian crossing to the southern footway of Victoria Embankment adjacent to Temple Place to normal route of travel.
 6. The Order will be revoked upon completion of these works.

Dated this 22nd day of November 2016

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(GOWAN AVENUE)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Gowan Avenue between its junctions with Munster Road and No. 140 Gowan Avenue.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Wardo Avenue and Sidbury Street.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 28th November 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 28th November 2016 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 17th day of November 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle

Chief Transport Planner

Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(MUNSTER ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit northbound traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed northbound, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Munster Road between its junctions with Fulham Road and Feldon Street.
3. 2 alternative routes for northbound traffic in article 2 would be provided;
 - (i) For vehicles travelling westbound on Fulham Road - a diversion would be in place via Fulham Road, Durell Road and Hestercombe Avenue,
 - (ii) For vehicles travelling Eastbound on Fulham Road - a diversion would be in place via Rostrevor Road, Swift Street and Feldon Street.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 3rd December 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday 3rd December 2016 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of November 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle

Chief Transport Planner

Transport and Highways

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Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1) (KING STREET)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which suspends the eastbound cycle lane in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the eastbound cycle lane on King Street shall be suspended between Studland Street and No. 170 King Street.
- An alternative route for cycle traffic in article 2 would not be in provided.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order will come into operation on the 23rd November 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works are expected to commence on Wednesday 23rd November 2016 and last for 7 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 16th day of November 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (LYTTON HOUSING ESTATE) (OFF STREET CAR PARK) ORDER 2016

- NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham made the above Order under sections 6, 32, 35 and 124 of and Part I to IV of schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
- The general effect of the Orders will be to enable the parking places and restrictions on waiting by vehicles (yellow lines) on the Lytton Housing Estate to be enforced under the provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This means that Penalty Charge Notices can be issued by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers to vehicles that contravene the parking restrictions, and vehicles may be removed (towed away) or immobilised (clamped) in certain cases, in the same way as on the public highway. The same rights of appeal to an adjudicator would also apply.
- The parking restrictions on the Lytton Housing Estate will operate as follows:
 - the parking restrictions to operate Monday to Saturday 9am - 8.30pm;
 - every vehicle must be parked wholly within a marked parking bay (vehicles are not permitted to park in any other areas on the estate, including footways);
 - parking permits to be issued in accordance with on street parking permit charges as set by the Council in respect of motor vehicles that is to say a passenger vehicle or goods carrying vehicle the overall height of which does not exceed 2.28 metres.
 - only vehicles displaying a valid resident's parking permit or a valid contractor's parking permit or an activated Controlled Parking Zone E SMART Visitor permit would be permitted to park in a permit holders parking bay;
 - resident's parking permits and Controlled Parking Zone E SMART visitor's parking permits to be issued only to eligible residents of the Lytton Housing Estate;
 - resident's permits would only be issued to residents who can show that their vehicle is registered as kept at their home address on the Lytton Housing Estate;
 - A motorcycle, may be left in a parking bay free of charge, provided the use of that part of the parking place is not closed or reserved by order of the Council;
 - where a parking bay is indicated as being for the use of a disabled person's vehicle, only a vehicle displaying a disabled person's blue badge may be left in that parking bay.
- Any person desiring to question the validity of the Orders or any of the provisions therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 or that any of the relevant requirements thereof or of any regulations made thereunder, may, within 6 weeks of the Orders being made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Transport and Highways Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department,
Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU.

Dated this 16th day of October 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Licensing Act 2003 Notice of Application for a Major Variation to a Premises Licence

An application has been made by Blanc Brasseries Ltd for a Major Variation to a Premises Licence for premises to be known as Brasserie Blanc (Unit 14, Building G) Goldhurst House Fulham Reach, Distillery Wharf, Parr's Way, Fulham, London W6 9GD. The application has been made to permit tables and chairs to remain outside the premises until midnight every day.

Full details of the application may be inspected by appointment only by contacting The Licensing Team, PO Box 66532, London W8 9GJ or licensing@bflh.gov.uk.

Representations should be made in writing to the Licensing Authority at the above address later than 12th December 2016.

All representations must be made in writing.

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 for anyone to recklessly or knowingly make a false statement in connection with a licensing application. The maximum fine on conviction is £5,000.

BERWIN LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP

LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT The Corner House, Brook Green Limited has applied to London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham on 11 November 2016 for the grant of a premises licence to use the premises The Corner House, 102-104 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 7PD for the sale by retail of alcohol from 7.00am to 11.00pm by way of a major variation to the existing premises.

The corner house, Brook Green Limited, 102-104 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 7PD, for the sale by retail of alcohol from 7.00am to 11.00pm, as more particularly set out in the application.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application may do so by giving notice to London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Licensing service, Hammersmith Town Hall Extension, King Street, London W6 9JU, no later than 09 December 2016 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A record of the application can be inspected online at www.bflh.gov.uk, or at the above address during office hours.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement or make a statement with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on conviction of such an offence is £5,000.

Thomas & Partners LLP,
20 Monmouth Street, London
WC2H 9EP
www.tandp.com

PROFESSOR DAVID BERNARD CASSON (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat 1, 86 Elm Park Gardens, Chelsea, London SW10 0PD, who died on 13/09/2016, are required to submit a claim in writing to the executors of the Estate, who are the trustees of the trust fund, signed by the testator before 30/01/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Lacye Solicitors LLP,
257 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole
BH14 9DY. Ref: njcCasson/a874-1

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Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE GLA ROADS AND GLA SIDE ROADS (WESTMINSTER) RED ROUTE CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2008 A3211 GLA ROAD (VICTORIA EMBANKMENT) VARIATION ORDER 2016

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that on 15th November 2016 it made the above named Order, under section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will come into force on 22nd November 2016.
- The general nature and effect of the Order will be to implement, on the east-side of A3211 Victoria Embankment, the following measures:
 - Install a 20 metre bus pick up and set down only bay opposite the Norman Shaw Building North;
 - Install a 15 metre bus stand for the 'Big Bus Tour' opposite the Norman Shaw Building North;
 - Install a 26 metre bus stand for the 'The Original Tour' opposite the Norman Shaw Building North;
 - Install a 36 metre Police vehicles only bay opposite Richmond Terrace;
 - shorten the No Stopping At Any Time restriction opposite the Norman Shaw Building North by 4 metres at its northern end;
 - install a 30 metre coach bay opposite Whitehall Police Station;
 - reduce the coach bay opposite Victoria Embankment Gardens by 12 metres at the southern end.
- The road which would be affected by the Order is A3211 GLA Victoria Embankment.
- A copy of the Order, a map indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Order revoked, suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:

• Transport for London Streets Traffic Order Team (RSM/PI/STOT) Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road London, SE1 8NJ	• WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff 10th Floor Westminster City Hall 64 Victoria Street London SW1E 6QP
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5. Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that they are not within the relevant powers conferred by the Act or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order is made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated this 22nd day of November 2016

Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team - Manager,
Road Space Management-Operations,
Transport for London

MAYOR OF LONDON



Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

'Emotional' Ollie's so happy to be home – at Loftus Road

AS homecomings go, Ian Holloway could not have asked for a better return to Queens Park Rangers on Saturday.

More than a decade on from being sacked by the West London club, the charismatic Bristolian received a hero's welcome for his first match since replacing Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink.

Demonstrating a new sense of attacking purpose rarely seen during the Dutchman's mainly joyless 11-month reign, QPR scored two first-half goals for the first time since February 27.

They were two up against Norwich City inside 27 minutes courtesy of a typical poacher's strike from Conor Washington – a bit-part player under Hasselbaink – and a well-executed low drive by Sebastian Polter.

It would have been 3-0 had Tjaronn Chery not screwed his penalty low and wide just two minutes after the start.

But Holloway had luck on his side, too. By falling on the ball to prevent it crossing the goal-line following a chaotic melee in the six-yard box, Norwich defender Martin Olsson got himself sent off.

Although 10-men Canaries clawed one goal back through Steven Naismith's glancing header 12 minutes from time, the visitors were not going to deny Holloway the distinction of becoming the first QPR boss – permanent or caretaker – to win his opening game in charge since Neil Warnock in March 2010.

Afterwards, Holloway said: "I'm so emotional. So dizzy. But so delighted. I've been waiting for that sort of buzz for 18 months. It was an incredible feeling."

"The two strikers both scoring was all I could ask. I want the lads to play like they did today but with a tad more confidence, because confidence is everything."

"The badge sits on their heart like a big tattoo. It's burning a hole in the heart. And I'm loving it."

"They are giving us everything and a couple of years ago maybe they didn't – and I didn't like them. But it was none of my business!"

Typically bold, Holloway introduced a new 3-5-2 formation, with James Perch and Jack Robinson (who had to go off injured at half-time) playing as wing-backs either side of a back trio of Nedium Onuoha, Grant Hall and Joel Lynch. Massimo Luongo and Jordan Cousins occupied the central midfield roles, while Chery remained in his favoured No 10 slot. For once, Washington and Polter were trusted as a front pairing and both quickly repaid their manager's faith.

Holloway said: "People were asking if I was going to play two up front. Sometimes I've played with three, even four, but it's not about how many we play up front, it's about the overall structure. "It was a really tough game – and we made it tougher than we should have. At times 10 men can make you look silly. But we showed great spirit to see the game out."

"The longer it went, the nervier we got. Nerves are a nasty thing. We need to press better. We need to keep our shape better."

"I've got lots to help them with. But I couldn't thank them more for today and the way they've taken to me in my short time back here. We got a lot wrong but we got more right."

On his return to the QPR dugout, Holloway admitted his emotions almost got the better of him.

He told *BBC Radio London*: "I had to compose myself before I came out of the dressing room before the game. I couldn't come out looking like a blubbering weasel. I had to come out and look the part. Hopefully I looked like a swan whose feet were going like mad beneath the water."

The crowd of 17,187 (3,100 from Norwich), buzzing with excitement and anticipation, was around 2,300 above the average for the previous eight home games.

"The fans were incredible," Holloway said. "Hearing them sing 'We've got our Rangers back' meant the world to me."

"I know what QPR fans want. They don't want someone who played like me. They

want someone who played like Stan Bowles or Gerry Francis.

"Gerry was the man who convinced me about this place – I would never have come here without him."

"To take this job is an absolute honour and a privilege that nobody else on this planet would care about like I do. That's a fact. No-one."

"I'm sure there'll be a tear in my eye later tonight when I take stock of the day. I've still got to pinch myself."

Pure Ollie.

Holloway may not be a tactical genius – he needs to improve his defensive strategy – but what he lacks in the finer arts of the game he more than makes up for in personality, passion and experience. He's been around the block a few times and the fact that seven Championship clubs have already changed managers by mid-November won't dampen his spirits.

He has the ability to inspire players, and supporters respond to his infectious brand of leadership. "I'm picking up the baton at QPR and running as fast as I can."

The media also appreciate his honesty and humour, which was again very much to the fore in his first Press conference prior to the Norwich game.

He enthused about the recently revamped club crest – "It's more us, you know?" – and even found time in his Press conference following Saturday's game (he took 11 minutes just to answer a few questions in radio interviews) to lend his vocal support to Wayne Rooney – "I feel devastated for the boy" – and urge the assembled gathering to leave the England captain alone.

In a second tier that is notoriously unpredictable, you wouldn't put your mortgage on Holloway's attack-minded QPR winning at Ipswich on Saturday. There will be ups and downs and cliffhangers as the season unfolds but you sense that if Rangers, currently 13th, are to have any hope of closing the four-point gap between them and the top six, Holloway gives them as

good a chance as any of achieving it.

Fans accept occasional defeats if they can see that the emphasis is more on winning rather than not losing. In this respect, they will only have been heartened by Holloway's first words since returning to W12 after a 10-year absence: "I want to get the players to be creative. I want to play a way that is modern and exciting," he said. "I want us to start scoring more goals and I'm confident we have players who can do that."

Reflecting on previous returns visits to Loftus Road as a TV pundit for Sky Sports, Holloway said: "It's like a wonderful review of your life. Some great memories and some bad. I can't describe how it feels. It's in you."

Holloway described the decision to accept Tony Fernandes' offer to return to Loftus Road as a no-brainer. He said: "How can I not come back to this place? I couldn't turn it down."

But Holloway isn't just smart for saying what QPR fans want to hear. His decision to bring Marc Bircham back as his No 2 is widely viewed as another popular move. "If you slice him down the middle, he's blue-and-white hoops," said the manager.

Bircham, a boyhood QPR fan who made 167 appearances for Rangers during his playing days, last worked with Holloway at Millwall two years ago. He returns to Britain after spending the last 22 months working in America, initially as assistant head coach at Chicago Fire, before a spell at Arizona United.

Bircham said: "It really is a dream come true. QPR are the only club I'd have moved back to England for and the opportunity to work with Ollie again, at a club that we both know inside out, was just too good to turn down."

"QPR are my club. I've supported Rangers all my life and I couldn't be happier or more proud to be working alongside Ian, who gave me the best days of my professional career here."

Tony McDonald



Wearing his heart on his sleeve, new Queens Park Rangers boss Ian Holloway

BETTING BANTER

THERE'S no reason why Chelsea shouldn't extend their winning-clean-sheet run to seven – their best since an eight-game sequence between January and April 2007 – when Tottenham visit Stamford Bridge on Saturday evening.

Spurs have an appalling record in this part of SW6 and Antonio Conte's men are in no mood to do them any favours this time either in front of the live BT Sport cameras. The fact that Tottenham are battling to stay in the Champions League in Monaco tonight could also harm their chances in West London.

Verdict: Chelsea to win 2-0 (17/2).

Who would dare bet against QPR during the Ian Holloway honeymoon period? It's amazing what a positive effect a new broom can have and we know it will never be dull with Ollie in the dugout.

Ipswich are still smarting from Saturday's 2-0 home defeat by Nottingham Forest, so maybe it's a good time to visit Portman Road, where the Tractor Boys have won only three of their nine Championship games this season.

Verdict: QPR to win (14/5).

There was a time not so long ago when Fulham were bankers in the over-2.5 goals market. Not now they have shored up their leaky defence.

Second-placed Brighton have the best home record in the Championship, losing just one of nine games and conceding only five goals, so Whites' fans should manage their expectations when the teams meet on the South Coast on Saturday.

But it's a measure of Fulham's improvement that the bookies have the Seagulls just a shade under evens to win this one.

Verdict: Under 2.5 goals (9/11).

Good luck – and remember to bet responsibly.

Tony McDonald

Bright bags England gong

CHELSEA Ladies' Millie Bright won the England Women's Young Player of the Year award at a ceremony at Wembley on Friday.

Bright, 23, also won the club's Young Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year gongs last week, and Eniola Aluko won the Women's Super League Golden Boot for her nine goals in 16 games.

● IN another of the Blues' Legends series, former Chelsea star Clive Walker will be hosting fans on a tour of Stamford Bridge this Sunday.

Walker will take visitors around the players' dressing rooms, the Press room, tunnel and dugout areas and there will be personal anecdotes from the former winger, plus a signed photo of him.

There will also be a Q&A session, as well as admission to the Chelsea FC museum, including a guidebook and audio guide.

To book a place on Sunday, November 27 at 10.30am, call 0371 811 1955 or email tours@chelseafc.com. Prices are £50 for adults.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday November 22 2016

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427



Diego Costa netted the winner at Middlesbrough and leads the way in the Premier League scoring stakes with 10 so far this season
Picture: Rob Newell



Fulham's forward-thinking full-back Scott Malone rescued a point with his late goal against Sheffield Wednesday
Picture: Rob Newell

Alonso aims to win his spurs

Spanish defender delighted he's top of the pile



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Paul Lagan

MARCOS Alonso is gunning for Spurs at the weekend and is determined to get his first Chelsea goal as a bonus.

The Spain defender, a £23 million signing from Italian side Fiorentina in the summer, is starring in Blues' charge to the top of the Premier League.

The 1-0 victory at Middlesbrough on Sunday was their sixth league win on the spin without conceding a goal, and they now have the undefeated North Londoners firmly in their sights.

Saturday evening's (5.30pm) encounter resonates with fans of both sides and is something that Alonso is fully aware of.

"I had a couple of chances to score against Middlesbrough," he said. "I have to score more in the next games. I am getting the chances and if we keep playing like this, hopefully more will come."

Ideally, a goal against Spurs will be something special for him and Chelsea fans.

"Yeah, lots of people are telling me how important this game is. They always remind me that this London derby is special and hopefully we can get the three points on Saturday."

Chelsea, who moved a point clear of Liverpool and Manchester City thanks to Diego Costa's 10th goal of the season, have not lost at home to Tottenham since 1990.

"I don't like statistics," said the 25-year-old. "But hopefully we can keep winning at home against them."

"We have to think game by game, and now we have Tottenham at home. It is

going to be a massive three points for us."

Spurs are playing Monaco away in the Champions League this week in a game they need to win to have a chance of progressing. Chelsea have a free week to prepare and Alonso agrees this may be to their advantage.

"Well, you can recover in three days very well," he said. "But maybe it can be an advantage."

Alonso has previously played for Bolton Wanderers and Sunderland, so he knows what it's like to be fighting for points at the wrong end of the table. Is he enjoying looking down at the rest from the top now?

"I've played twice against Chelsea and I won both times, so it's not a very good question, is it?" he laughed.

"I think with the players we have now, the way we are playing and how we get to the game with the right focus and concentration, it's very hard to beat us at the moment."

"It will be tough for other teams. We just have to work hard and keep doing the hard work during the week."

"We are playing well, winning games and not conceding. We are creating lots of chances, we just have to keep working."

Alonso's countryman and fellow defender Cesar Azpilicueta is also delighted to be top of the pile.

"We know every game is different," he said. "We would like to win every game 5-0 but we know that's not possible. The opponents had some moments and we had difficulties. But we suffered together and the most important thing is that we have the three points - they are massive points."

"The win put us top of the table, which gives us more confidence because this is where we want to be and obviously, even at this stage, it is important. The most important thing is to finish in this position in May."

"The players are enjoying the way we are playing. It is still a long way to go but we climbed to the top of the table when we had the chance and we have to keep working."

Working hard is something Antonio Conte insists upon. "I'm pleased because we won a game in a different way if you compare it to our past five games," said the head coach.

"We won 1-0 against a strong team with good organisation. At the moment we had to suffer, we suffered, but we never lost our compactness. It's very good."

"We created chances to score the second goal and it's important to score the second goal and kill the game, because anything can happen until the end in this league. When you are winning only 1-0 you have to pay attention until the end, because Middlesbrough could have got a draw, like against (Manchester) City."

"Middlesbrough played a good game with good organisation. They put their best on the pitch but in this period it's very difficult to play against Chelsea."

"This game gives us confidence and increases our trust in what we are doing."

"Now it's important to think about the next game against Tottenham, a tough game, a massive game."

Conte said of Blues' match-winner Costa: "Diego is impressing with the way he is finding ways to score goals. It's important to continue in this way because we need his goals, Eden's goals, Willian's goals, Pedro's goals."

"In the past, people asked me about his behaviour, his reaction, his passion, and now he's one of the best strikers in the world. He has to continue in this way. He is showing his passion in the right way."

"He is very focused on helping the team with and without the ball, and he is scoring goals."

● CHELSEA'S under-18s continue to impress and went top of the league after coming from behind to beat Southampton 4-1 at Cobham on Saturday.

Trailing to a Michael Obafemi strike, Jody Morris' side turned on the style and second-half goals from Callum Hudson-Odoi, an unfortunate opponent and substitute Charlie Brown (2) were enough to keep them three points clear of West Ham United in the south section.

Morris said: "I said to the boys at half-time, even though we were changing the shape from a midfield diamond to 4-3-3, the things I was asking them to do in the second half had little to do with the system we were playing."

"Southampton were better than us in the first half in all departments and the most disappointing thing was that it looked like they wanted it more."

"Even though it might look like changing the system was the difference, I felt we lacked personality and character in the first half and it was those areas that we focused on at half-time."

"We've been on a good run of late and the key features of that have been us dominating second balls, flooding the midfield and being physically strong. We didn't do those things well enough, so the lads had a lot to prove in the second half."

"I was really pleased with how we responded to blow Southampton away - we could have scored six or seven in the end."

"It was the first time we've been behind at half-time this season, so it was a test of our character to come from behind. The early goal helped to settle us down but then we had some outstanding individual play from certain players and also good passages where we looked a lot more fluid."

Next up for the under-18s is an away match at Fulham, who are seventh in the league with 15 points.

Cottagers
are saved by great Scott

Focus on Craven Cottage

SCOTT Malone is fast growing in stature after regaining his first-team place at Fulham.

The forward-thinking left-back followed his recent man-of-the-match performance in Whites' win at Brentford with a last-gasp equaliser in Saturday's 1-1 draw with Sheffield Wednesday at Craven Cottage.

Head coach Slavisa

Jokanovic said: "Scott Malone's goal was very important for us. I generally expect my players to keep pushing and fighting to get in to the starting 11."

"For those who didn't participate in the game I expect them to push harder to fight to be in a better position for minutes (on the pitch)."

"Scott Malone has Ryan Sessegnon behind him and he knows he needs to be at a high level to start."

"This is not a signal for other people to be relaxed and believe they don't have a chance to get into the starting team. All my players need to be pushing hard for the best interests of the team and they have to be ready for this."

The late point leaves Fulham eighth in the Championship, two points off the play-off zone, ahead of Saturday's testing visit to second-placed Brighton. With six wins, two draws and only one defeat, the Seagulls have the best home record in the second tier.

Fulham have the second-best away record in the division after leaders Newcastle United, so they shouldn't head for the south coast with an inferiority complex. "We found many problems during the game," said Jokanovic. "Sheffield Wednesday are an experienced team and didn't give us many chances to play. There were lots of yellow cards and they wanted to finish the game with a point and in the last minute we had a chance to win."

"We expected to win the three points. In this moment one point can be small for us but we are going to go to the end of the season to see if it's worth something or not."

"If we had played this game last season we would probably have lost 3-0 or something. We didn't play very good football today but we try to move forward step by step."

"I have to be satisfied for the point but I can't be completely satisfied as we didn't win the game. But I am satisfied with the progress we're making."

Wednesday went ahead in the 10th minute thanks to a sublime piece of skill by Fernando Forestieri, who opened up the home defence with a clever dummy before drilling his low, angled shot inside the far corner from 10 yards. The lively Italian blazed another shot wide, while Barry Bannan and Gary Hooper - who missed a sitter - also had chances to double Sheffield's lead before half-time.

But the adventurous Malone made them pay when he popped up at the far post to lash the ball home in front of the Hammersmith end.

"I am always positive but I am never satisfied," said Jokanovic. "We need to try to improve ourselves."

"We know what the supporters expect of us but I don't want us thinking about what will happen in May."

Tony McDonald